Hafa Adai!

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VFW Foundation donates $1K to Matua Riders. PAGE 2

Worker awarded $132,677.84 in unpaid wages, damages. PAGE 5

NMI economy continues rebound

By JON PEREZ
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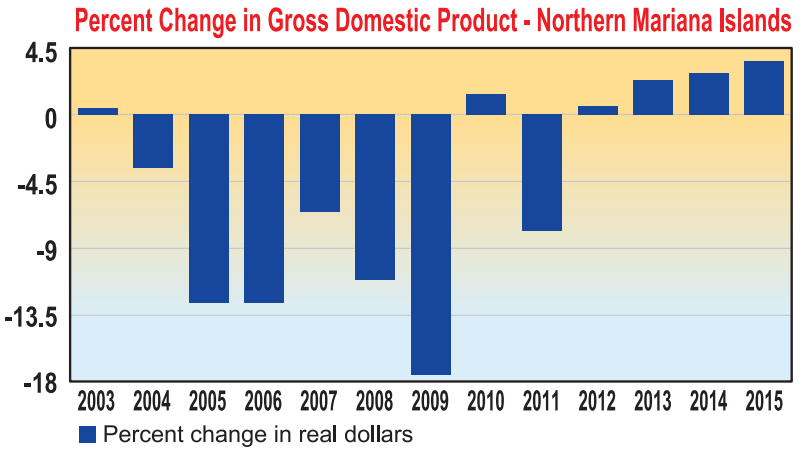
REPORTER

The CNMI economy continues to climb from many years of slump based on the 2015 data compiled by U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released yesterday.



The Commonwealth's economy increased by 0.7 percent, from 2.8 percent in 2014 to 3.5 percent in 2015, the same year when Saipan bore the brunt of Typhoon Soudelor's tornado-like winds.

This would be the fourth straight year that the CNMI's gross domestic product increased following years of being at the negative level, including a negative 17.5 percent economic activity in 2009, the lowest for the Commonwealth.

Totaling consumer spending, investments, government spending minus taxes, and the value of exports minus the imports is how GDP is calculated. The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres credited the bureau's report to the total amount

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Visitor arrivals up 6 percent in October

File photo shows a couple of visitors from Guam checking out the Forbidden Island on Saipan. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands rose 6 percent in October 2016 compared to October 2015.

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 41,729 visitors in October 2016, compared to 35,549 visitors in October 2015.

Arrivals from Korea began the new fiscal year with another strong month, jumping 42 percent in October to 20,330 visitors. This is due to an increase in the number of flights, including low-cost carrier Eastar's

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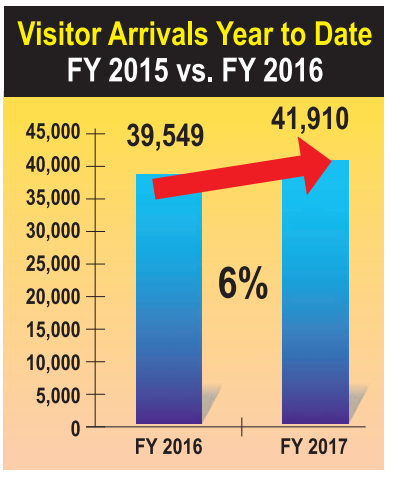

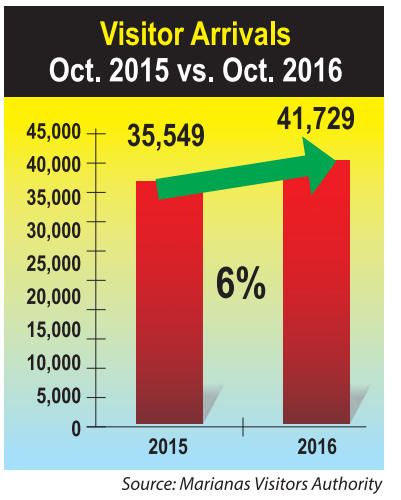

Source: Marianas Visitors Authority

Low-cost Korea airline to launch flights for Saipan

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A low-cost Korean airline will start offering daily flights to and from Korea before Christmas of 2016.

Korean airline T'way Air would be offering regular daily flights from the Incheon International Airport to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport starting Dec. 24, 2016.

The popular low-cost carrier will help improve arrival numbers from South Korea.

"We are very excited about the

See KOREA on Page 4

DHS: 'First-to-file system' is used to decide CW-1 cap

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has denied it has not developed a method for allocating and determining the number of CW-1 cap, saying its "system for allocating" is the first-to-file basis.

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation assistant director Glenn M. Girdharry, counsel for DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson

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Local

VFW Foundation donates $1K to Matua Riders

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

A non-government group, the Matua Riders, was recently the beneficiary of a $1,000 donation, thanks to the Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 3457,

The donation, made Tuesday, will be used to support the Matua Riders' annual Christmas Spirit Run across the island.

A Matua Rider, Pete Deleon Guerrero, said, "This is a big donation for us. We have fundraisings and donations to help support events like our Christmas Spirit Run… This is what we've been doing every year since the Matua Riders was first established in 2010."

Under the Christmas Spirit Run, Matua Riders deliver care packages—to the *man'amko*, to pediatric care patients in the hospital, and to less-fortunate housing areas—while also spending time with the people there. Leftover packages and materials are delivered to Karidat.

Michael A. O'Kelly, commander for VFW Post 3457 on Saipan, said, "After looking at several charities in the CNMI, our post chose the Matua Riders as an organization which closely reflects the ideals of the VFW in comradeship and community service. Like the VFW on Saipan, the Matua Riders has no paid officers, and every penny they earn through fundraising goes to help others."

"The Matua Riders believe strongly in veterans' causes as well as the patriotic ideals that have kept America free. Some of their members are veterans themselves, and even a few are members of our post," O'Kelly added.

Care packages would be delivered to the Office on Aging on Dec. 9, with the visit to pediatric patients the following day.

"The more donations and sponsors we get, the better the care packages will be," Guerrero said. "For the Matua [Riders], we don't just ride around. We spend time with the community with the Christmas Spirit Run or any other event we do to help out. After all, Saipan's our island."

A total of 150 care packages were delivered last year; the riding group now looks to distribute 200 this season.

For those wishing to make a donation, call 285-7013 for Pete Deleon Guerrero.

Matua Riders pose for a photo with Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 3457 members after the donation of a $1,000 check was given at the VFW building in Garapan on Nov. 29.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Birthday bash for Japan emperor

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Japanese community in the Commonwealth is gearing up to celebrate the upcoming birthday of Japanese Emperor Akihito on Dec. 6 at the Grandvrio Resort Saipan.

The Consular Office of Japan will host a reception in honor of the birthday of his majesty at the Fiesta Hall of Grandvrio Resort, at 6pm on Tuesday.

Emperor Akihito, whose original name is Tsugu Akihito, will become 83 years old on Dec. 23, 2016. His birthday has been celebrated as a national holiday in Japan.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Saipan on June 27 and 28, 2005, to pay tribute to the dead of World War II.

James Sakamoto from the Consular Office of Japan said, "Japanese mythology says that the Japanese emperors, who are called *tenno* in Japanese, are the descendants of the sun goddess named Amaterasu Omikami, and that the first emperor, Jimmu, ascended the throne and began his reign in 660 B.C. Emperor Akihito is thought to be a direct descendant of Emperor Jimmu and is the 125th emperor to succeed to the throne."

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Pinoy group in NMI joins protest vs Marcos burial

By MICHAEL T SANTOS
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REPORTER

Celia Lamkin, joined by other volunteers, came together yesterday evening in a peaceful protest against the hero's burial accorded to former Philippine dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos. The protest was in collaboration with other protest movements held worldwide.

On Saipan, the rally took place at the San Jose intersection, with participants holding up protest signs.

Lamkin said, "We want [Philippine president Rodrigo] Duterte to to be held accountable as to why Marcos was buried in the heroes' cemetery, even if the nine justices (or what we call injustices) of the Philippine Supreme Court approved the burial. President Duterte had the power to stop it but he didn't."

Lamkin is founder and chair of the *Bayani, Bayan Bago Sarili*. Their mission is to inculcate patriotism and about loving one's country in the minds of the youth.

"One of the Marcos victims was a very old friend of mine named Archmides Trajano. In 1997 he attended a forum that had a relative of Marcos present. My classmate questioned her qualification for wanting to be the president of a youth council. He was found [dead] the following day. [It was] portrayed as if he committed suicide. Actually, he was abducted, tortured, and killed," Lamkin said.

One of yesterday's participants, Guan Jacayan, said, "It's not good and it's not fair to not have a say about Marcos being buried among heroes. I am *Ilocano* [from Ilocos, where Marcos came from] but I don't support it. People from Ilocos are just not vocal about it."

"On Nov. 18, 2016, nine justices approved the burial of Marcos in the heroes' cemetery. That was the death, I would say, of Philippine democracy. When Marcos was buried secretly, things just got confirmed," Lamkin said. "[Marcos] was basically buried like a thief in the night."

Bayani, Bayan Bago Sarili chair Celia Lamkin, seated, and other members hold up posters during their protest at the San Jose intersection on Nov. 30.
MICHAEL T. SANTOS

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Program for children with disabilities finalizing report

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A federally funded program that coordinates efforts to assist children with disabilities met Wednesday to finalize their report for submission to the Office of Special Education Programs.

The Public School System's Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Intervention Program met to talk about their Annual Performance Report, which is due Feb. 1, 2017.

The Early Intervention Program brings service providers, parents, and teachers together to support children with conditions such as autism, Down's syndrome, deafness, blindness, and more. The EIP also screens children who are suspected of having developmental delays in walking, talking, or at least a 25 percent delay in one or more skills.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, students with disabilities are given free public education that is suited to their needs. A part of IDEA focuses on children from birth to age 3 and their families.

In collaboration with PSS and the Department of Public Health, the Early Intervention Program meets quarterly. Its members are chosen by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The Early Intervention Program seeks out babies with suspected development delays in order to screen them for proper services.

EIP (Part C) interim coordinator Robin L. Palacios said the specifics of the report have yet to be announced to the public. She said the EIP must first confirm the figures. She did share that out of 17 targets set by the Interagency Coordinating Council, only 11 are being met.

"Today, at the [Interagency Coordinating Counci] meeting, we are going over our Annual Performance Report. There are 11 indicators that the CNMI must report on annually by Feb. 1, every year, to the Office of Special Education Programs," said Palacios. "For this reporting year, there are six targets that we as a program did not meet. Right now what we are trying to do is gather stakeholders' input on why we did not make the target and get more information on how we could [improve] the program."

If you suspect your child to have developmental delays, contact the EIP office at 664-4841 for no-cost screenings.

DHS

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and co-defendants, pointed out that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and its 13 CW-1 workers are incorrect that DHS "has not developed a method, or a system, for allocating and determining the number of CW-1 permits that are to be issued each fiscal year."

On the contrary, Girdharry said, DHS' "system for allocating" CW-1 permits to CNMI employers is on a first-to-file basis, without regard to occupational category, until the cap is exhausted—citing the testimony of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District 26 Director David G. Gulick.

Girdharry discussed the issue in Johnson's and co-defendants' reply on Tuesday in support of their motion to dismiss CUC's lawsuit.

Girdharry said this "system" is based on DHS' reasonable interpretation of its ambiguous regulations governing the CW-1 transitional worker program that are not plainly erroneous or inconsistent.

Girdharry said the "system" falls squarely in line with Congress' intent under the Consolidated Natural Resources Act that DHS provide the CNMI with as much flexibility as possible to maintain existing businesses and maximize economic and business growth while phasing-in federal responsibilities over immigration and mandating the reduction of CW-1 permits to zero before the end of the transition.

He said DHS' procedure—or "system"—of allocating approved CW-1 permits on a first-to-file basis, without regard to occupational category, is a product of the agency's interpretation of its ambiguous regulations.

"Because DHS' interpretation is not plainly erroneous or inconsistent with its regulations, the court should defer to the agency's interpretation as controlling," Girdharry said.

The lawyer said the meaning of the agency's regulations with regards to how DHS "allocates" approved CW-1 permits to qualifying employers seeking foreign workers each fiscal year is ambiguous because it is not entirely free from doubt.

For instance, Girdharry said, the Final Rule indicates that "the CNRA requires the system for allocating permits to be issued to prospective employers," because "it would be inconsistent with [48 U.S.C. Section 1806(d)(2)] to grant CW status without an employer requesting it for a worker."

Girdharry said DHS' regulations define the specific "occupational categories" that qualify for CW-1 status.

"But the meaning of the regulations leave doubt with regard to how the agency intended to connect these two parts of the CW-1 program together to allocate approved CW-1 permits to qualifying employers seeking workers in those categories each year," he said.

Girdharry said with regards to how DHS allocates approved CW-1 permits, therefore the agency's regulations are ambiguous.

CUC counsel James S. Sirok has likened Gulick's and his team's decision to reduce the CW-1 cap to a magician pulling a rabbit from a hat.

Citing the CW-1 cap for fiscal year 2016, Sirok said there was no information reported in the *Federal Register* or brought to the attention of the court through Gulick's testimony to show why the reduction number had to be 1,000 versus 1 or 2 or 10 or 100 or even 2,000.

"Mr. Gulick and his team merely pulled the reduction number of 1,000 out of thin air to enlighten and humor the populace of the CNMI, and its political leaders, in the same manner a magician pulls a rabbit from a hat," the lawyer said.

Through their first amended complaint, CUC and 13 of its CW-1 workers are asking the court to provide declaratory and injunctive relief preventing Johnson and co-defendants from enforcing the CW-1 cap.

The plaintiffs argued, among other things, that the manner and process used in the past and being currently utilized by DHS to arrive at the cap number is arbitrary, capricious, and an abuse of the DHS secretary's limited discretion.

Johnson and co-defendants moved to dismiss the amended complaint. They argued, among other things, that the DHS secretary has unfettered discretion to set the cap in any manner and make it applicable to the CW-1 petitioning process.

Sirok said U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recognized that the CNRA requires the DHS secretary to "establish, administer, and enforce a system for allocating and determining the number and terms and conditions of permits."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

KOREA

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launch of new service between the CNMI and Seoul-Incheon with the inaugural flight of T'way Airlines on Dec. 24. It's a timely Christmas gift for the CNMI as we welcome our fifth regular scheduled airline from Korea," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion.

"With their daily flights to Saipan we expect arrival numbers [of Korean tourists] to continue to increase. The MVA is working closely with T'way to promote the Marianas as a premier destination for the Korean traveler," he added.

Concepcion expressed concern about the lack of hotel rooms on the islands as more and more tourists from China and Korea flock to the CNMI.

"We are concerned about the insufficient hotel room inventory, which limits our ability to accommodate more guests but we are hopeful the upcoming hotel projects will alleviate some of these issues," said Concepcion.

T'way Air is a popular low-cost carrier based in Seongsu-dong, Seoul, South Korea. Founded in August 2010, T'way Air has a fleet size of 15 with flights going to 26 destinations including China, Guam, Japan, Laos, the Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and the CNMI. T'way Air also provides domestic flights within South Korea.

NMI

From Page 1

of investments poured in the CNMI, the new gaming industry, and an increase in tourism activity based on the growing number of air carriers flying to Saipan.

Torres, in a statement after meeting bureau representatives yesterday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill, said the CNMI's economy showed it was not adversely affected by the Internet outage in July last year and the devastation brought by Typhoon Soudelor the following month.

There was a slight increase in consumer spending and an increase in territorial spending following the strongest storm that hit Saipan in years, using funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the CNMI's recovery efforts.

"To put this all into perspective, 2009 saw the lowest GDP for the CNMI. It wasn't too long ago that we were in the midst of a deep and persistent economic depression. Our tourism industry was struggling with low numbers of arrivals. Large and small businesses were also struggling," said Torres.

A huge part of the CNMI population also struggled to make ends meet since the once thriving garment industry moved its operations to other countries to avail of cheap labor costs.

Torres said it is a different story right now. "Now, we see an economy in its fourth straight year of growth. Things now are not only different, but also better. Large businesses have regained their footing."

"More small businesses are popping up. Unemployment has dropped. And there's an increased feeling of financial security and inclusion within our community," added Torres, who was joined by Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman, DOC Central Statistics Division director Justin Andrew, and Commerce IT manager Tom Torres at the Office if the Governor.

USBEA director Brien C. Moyer, economist Kevin J. Furlong, and chief program director Aya Hamano made the presentation to the CNMI panel.

Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan (Ind-MP) also praised the CNMI's economic growth. "This is our fourth year of increased economic activity and I look forward to continuing the federal spending and immigration policies that are major contributors to this growth."

Hocog, in an earlier interview, said the administration is optimistic once USBEA compiles and computes the data for the year. "I'm pretty sure that fiscal year 2016 would be an indicator of further increase. That's why, with the administration and Legislature working together, we can achieve more and address the concerns of all sectors of our community," said Hocog.

Rabauliman also sees continuous positive growth for the CNMI. "Seeing the continuous growth of our economy, as shown by our latest GDP report, is promising. We are very optimistic about our economy for the years to come."

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) said the CNMI's economy would continue its rise, based on the activity from January to November this year. "Based on the information that's coming in and what's going on right now, it appears that our economy would continue to grow."

"That's why, we as legislators should come together and make sure to work on that success. The government depends on how the economy would perform in order to deliver basic services and fund its departments," he added.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan) said the economic impact of the gaming industry trickled down to the other businesses and the entire community. "It has a ripple effect. A lot of businesses are seeing positive economic gains. We see a lot of sales of goods and other services go up along with an increase of employment."

The House Committee on Commerce and Tourism vice chair said a lot of people now have spending power. "There are more consumers that are spending. We will continue to see increases based on the business gross receipt taxes. We can expect higher revenues next year and the years to come."

He added that tourist traffic would further increase and more taxes would be collected once the Imperial Pacific Resort opens next year. "Hotels are full and occupancy rates are high. And this has a trickle-down effect when more people travel here, more people would spend money."

"We could expect to see revenues that we have not seen in a long time. And that's very exciting. In turn, the government is in a better position to increase its services particularly in law enforcement, healthcare, education, and other critical services. Every time revenues go up, the government is always in the better position to take care of its people."

VISITOR

From Page 1

daily Incheon-Saipan flight launched in October 2016 and Asiana Airline's Incheon-Saipan daily charter flights also begun in October 2016 and continuing to Feb. 28, 2017. Also, beginning on Dec. 23, T'way is planning to operate an Incheon-Saipan daily flight and Jeju Air will inaugurate a four-times weekly Busan-Saipan flight, so visitor arrivals from Korea are projected to remain high.

Arrivals from China fell 10 percent compared to October 2015 to 15,331 visitors, although under the current economic environment, Chinese outbound tourism remains strong. Aggressive competition from other destinations and a lack of hotel room availability are major factors that have contributed to this slight decline. Concerns have been raised about capacity and infrastructure issues at the Saipan International Airport, but the MVA has been quick to counter these concerns with positive news about the destination itself. Based on annual data from online travel company Tuniu, Saipan was ranked No. 1 in the Top 10 Most Favorite Island Destinations in 2015. In 2016, Saipan moved down a few ranks to No. 6. Overall, the outlook remains positive for the China market.

Arrivals from Japan fell 27 percent to 3,591 visitors in October as a result of Delta Air Lines' suspension of their Narita-Saipan evening daily flight on Oct. 24, 2015. The reduction was part of Delta's flight cutbacks to beach resorts including Hawaii and Guam from Osaka and Nagoya markets. The MVA's newly appointed representative office in Japan has been meeting with key stakeholders including travel agents and several airlines to increase demand for travel to the Northern Marianas. Negotiations with airlines to operate charter flights from secondary cities are ongoing.

Economic highlights

South Korea's political uncertainties over an unfolding influence-peddling scandal could increase downside risks to the country's economic growth, a Citigroup report said. The global investment bank said the scandal involving President Park Geun-hye could shrink consumer sentiment, which in turn could further slow economic growth in the fourth quarter. The report was released by the Korea Center for International Finance. Citigroup also noted the political uncertainties could have limited influence on the country's financial markets, noting major political issues in the past, including the 2004 impeachment of then liberal president Roh Moo-hyun, had no significant impact on financial markets.

Under the strong leadership of the Chinese Party Central Committee and the State Council, the economy is continuing to focus on public entrepreneurship, with the outbound tourism sector being strongly supported with more flexibility across the board from local authorities. Issuing of passports to Chinese citizens is becoming increasingly convenient and a healthy economy with a stable personal income stream and higher spending levels among younger, affluent individuals both bode well for the overseas travel industry in China in general and the NMI's tourism arrival and average spending patterns in specific. Throughout 2016 and 2017, the Chinese government is not expected to curb overseas travel or overseas tourism-industry investment.

On Sept. 21, 2016, the Bank of Japan announced a "comprehensive assessment" of its quantitative and qualitative monetary easing policy, concluding that the decline in real interest rates over the three years since QQE was introduced in 2013 has lifted the Japanese economy out of deflation. The monthly average rate of the U.S. dollar to Japanese yen exchange in October 2016 was at 103.74, up from 102.03 in September. ***(MVA)***

Worker awarded $132,677.84 in unpaid wages, damages

A 52-year-old woman has been awarded more than $132,000 in unpaid wages and liquidated damages, after the federal court found out that she was made to work an average of 13 hours each day without overtime payment.

Yu Xuang was awarded $75,979.44 in unpaid wages and $56,698.40 in liquidated damages.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found Joo Yeon Corp. (JYC), Se Young Corp. (SYC), and Yang-Tack Hwang liable to pay former employee Yu Xuang $75,979.44 in unpaid wages and $56,698.40 in liquidated damages, for a total of $132,677.84.

Manglona determined that Xuan was neither paid the prevailing minimum wage nor overtime hours, in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Commonwealth's Minimum Wage and Hour Act, and her employment contract.

Manglona directed the clerk to enter the judgment in favor of Xuan and against her former employers—JYC, SYC, and Hwang. Clerk of Court Heather L. Kennedy issued the entry of judgment last Friday.

Xuan filed her civil action in 2012.

Xuan claimed she worked in excess of 18 hours each day despite being paid a flat fee of $800 per month. Defendants failed to keep timesheets or any other documentation of Xuan's work hours and argued that Xuan worked far fewer hours than claimed.

Manglona conducted a 19-day bench trial in the case.

Manglona earlier determined that JYC, SYC and Hwang were Xuan's employers for purposes of the FLSA because Xuan worked for JYC as a tour driver, for SYC at its Seaman's Restaurant, and reported directly to Hwang as her supervisor.

According to the court's determination, Xuan came to work on Saipan in 2007 and that she last worked on Saipan in 2012 for JYC and its owner, Hwang, doing business as Santa Rosa tour boat.

Xuan previously worked at a market and a poker arcade before applying for a job with JYC in 2008. Xuan provided services to JYC from June 2008 to October 2012.

Xuan testified that she worked as a tour guide for defendants from June 2008 to October 2012.

Xuan checked guests into their hotels, collected payments for optional tours upon check-in, and escorted them to dinner shows, magic shows, water parks, and other optional tours.

Xuan also testified that she helped prepare "snorkeling packs" for customers each morning, and then purchased squid for fishing, purchased tuna and occasionally lobster for dinner at the Seaman Restaurant—a restaurant originally owned and operated by JYC but then transferred to SYC—and washed the snorkel gear returned by customers after their Managaha or "hopping" tour trip.

Sometimes Xuan would also assist with the operations of Seaman's Restaurant.

Defendants paid Xuan a flat fee on a monthly basis without regard to the actual number of hours performed. She was paid $800 per month until July 2012, with the exception of one month of unpaid vacation from June 10, 2012, to July 11, 2012.

She was then paid $1,000 per month from August 2012 until her termination in October 2012.

Xuan alleges that she worked, on average, at least 12.5 hours each day. On her busiest day, she worked approximately 18 hours a day; and on the slowest days, she worked no less than eight hours.

Manglona determined that Xuan has presented enough evidence to support a reasonable inference of hours worked when her employer failed to keep records of her hours worked.

Manglona said the defendants showed no evidence of precisely how many hours Xuan actually worked.

Manglona said that based on the evidence at trial, she finds that Xuan worked an average of 13 hours per day from Nov. 23, 2008, to Oct. 15, 2012.

Manglona also found the series of employment contracts between Xuan and the defendants from Nov. 20, 2008, through at least Dec. 20, 2010, to be valid and enforceable.

Manglona said the statute of limitation for breach of contract is six years and will be calculated from the beginning of Xuan's employment.

The judge additionally noted that Hwang's conduct in other matters also impugns his reliability.

Manglona noted that Hwang lived in a government-sponsored affordable housing and reported low levels of income, despite all the tour company vehicles listed in his name.

"Again, without reaching the conclusion that Hwang defrauded the CNMI government, the court notes Hwang's seeming willingness to pursue his own interests without regard for strict honesty," Manglona said.

The judge also cited that the evidence at trial show that Hwang has had past FLSA unpaid wage claims filed against his company in federal court, as well as a formal labor complaint before the CNMI Department of Labor during Xuan's first year of employment with JYC.

In the Labor case, Manglona said, Hwang, as manager of JYC, was required to attend Labor's orientation for foreign workers because he was found to have displayed a "very substantial lack or [sic] knowledge of or willingness to evade the requirements of Commonwealth law."

Attorney Mark Hanson is counsel for Xuan. Attorney Samuel Mok is counsel for the defendants. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Guam land could go to traditional Chamorro healers

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam lawmakers are considering legislation that would dedicate 15 acres of land on the eastern shore of the island to preserve the Chamorro indigenous art of herbal healing.

The bill was discussed during Monday's legislative session, *The Pacific Daily News* reported.

The proposal states that the land in Mangilao will be designated to increase access to plants for Chamorro traditional healers, or *suruhana* and *suruhanu*. It would also protect a variety of plants and the land from residential or commercial development.

Speaker Judith Won Pat said preserving the traditional healing arts on Guam is a challenge because many herbal plants are on military land.

"The unfortunate thing about it is that some of these you can't just pick them at the hour set by the military," Won Pat said.

There plants must be picked at a certain time of day in order to follow traditional healing practices as well as for optimum use, including early in the morning or around sunset, she said.

The bill brought by Sen. Tom Ada builds upon a previous law that sets aside property for the practice of Chamorro medicinal healing arts. The law gave the Chamorro Land Trust Commission authority to designate two parcels of land, in the north and south of Guam, to establish a biodiversity conservation easement, Hatdin Amot Chamorro. It was also enacted to allow the Haya Foundation, which focuses on perpetuating indigenous healing practices, to transplant, cultivate and perpetuate native flora used for healing.

MVA brings Ironman 70.3 to the CNMI

The Marianas Visitors Authority is expanding its repertoire of annual signature events to include Ironman 70.3 Saipan, slated for March 11, 2017. Registration opens on Dec. 1 at www.ironman.com.

"Ironman is a prestigious, worldwide event that is a household name to athletes and non-athletes alike, and we're ecstatic to be bringing the Ironman brand to the Northern Mariana Islands," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The ad exposure the Northern Marianas is going to receive, in addition to the actual number of athletes attending, is expected to eventually exceed any other sporting event the MVA organizes, as we grow the event. We're expecting several hundred athletes in the first year alone."

An Ironman 70.3 is one of a series of long distance triathlon races organized by the World Triathlon Corp. Half the length of an Ironman, Ironman 70.3 features a 1.2-mile (1.9 km) swim, a 56-mile (90 km) bike ride, and a 13.1-mile (21.1 km) run.

In organizing the event, MVA is once again partnering with Kaizoku Fitness Club and KFC president Kiyokazu Onishi, who helped bring the Tinian Turquoise Blue and Rota Blue Triathlon to the NMI.

"It's been several months in the planning with Onishi-san, but we're pleased that we now have a date and confirmation that Ironman 70.3 Saipan is a go!" said Concepcion. "We encourage all our tourism partners and MVA members to join us in getting behind this worldwide event and putting the Northern Marianas on the Ironman map with an unforgettable experience for the competitors in March."

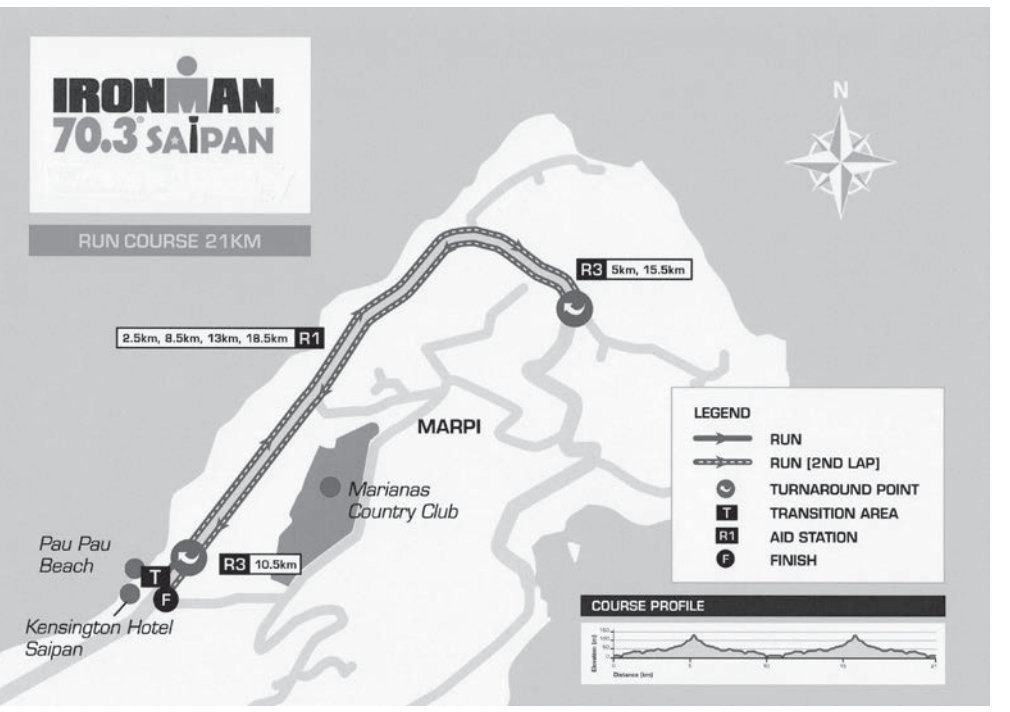
Ironman 70.3 Saipan will also offer 30 age-qualifying slots for the 2017 Ironman 70.3 World Championship in Chattanooga, TN.

The swim will be held in the crystal clear waters of Pau Pau Beach. The mainly flat bike course follows the western and northern coast of the island from Bird Island south to Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The run course features the quiet nature and historic and scenic sites of Marpi.

In addition to Ironman 70.3 Saipan, the MVA will still hold the XTERRA Saipan Championship on March 18, the 12th Saipan Marathon on March 25, and Tagaman later in 2017. ***(MVA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Ironman 70.3 Saipan bike course follows the western and northern coast of the island from Bird Island lookout south to Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The run course of Ironman 70.3 Saipan features the quiet nature and historic and scenic sites of Marpi.

Golden Harvest students shine at November NJSDA competition

Golden Harvest International School congratulates its three 6th grade students who participated and won at the recently concluded National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition held last Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016, at Kagman High School.

- John Paul Labadan and Gadiele Rhopher Joson: Duo A, 1st Place
- Amber Sidney Sureta: PR MC, 1ST Place
- Amber Sidney Sureta: OO A, 2nd Place
- Gadiele Rhopher Joson: OO A, 4th Place
- John Paul Labadan: D.I. A, 4th Place

G.H.I.S. would like to thank the parents who volunteered as judges in the competition. The volunteer judges included Christopher Joson and Eleanor Sureta. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three Golden Harvest International School 6th grade students participated in the recently concluded National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition last Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016, at Kagman High School.

Cop's statements in domestic violence case suppressed

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has suppressed the statements given by a Rota police officer facing domestic violence charges to two fellow officers.

In an order last week, Camacho said that based on the totality of the circumstances surrounding the two interviews conducted by police sergeant Noel Calvo and police detective Shaw Taisacan, the court finds that Taisacan's Miranda warning to George A. Barcinas was ineffective.

Miranda warning refers to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that statements made by a suspect in police custody are generally inadmissible if the suspect has not been made aware of his or her Fifth and Sixth Amendment rights.

Camacho said that Taisacan's interview was tainted by Calvo's failure to Mirandize Barcinas.

The judge noted that Calvo improperly interviewed Barcinas under the guise of a "friendship talk" without administering Miranda warnings.

"Based on a totality of the circumstances, an improper two-step interrogation process was employed, and the Commonwealth failed to meet its burden of disproving the deliberateness of the two-step interrogation," Camacaho said.

Further, the judge said, curative measures were taken by the officers to ensure a knowing and voluntary waiver of Miranda.

On the night of June 5, 2015, Calvo and Taisacan separately talked to Barcinas.

Barcinas, through assistant public defender Tillman Clark, moved to suppress all statements that he made to the Rota officers on the night of June 5. Defense attorney Joaquin Torres had since replaced Clark as counsel for Barcinas.

The Office of the Attorney General alleged that on June 5, 2015, on Rota, Barcinas pinned his wife to the ground and placed her in a headlock. He allegedly grabbed his wife's keys from her car's ignition against her will, preventing her from leaving his property.

Barcinas also allegedly used physical force to struggle with and prevent the victim from calling law enforcers after she informed him of her intention to do so.

The government charged the 35-year-old Barcinas with assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and interfering with a domestic violence report. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Notice of registration and election to all Filipinos

Under the Philippines' Republic Act 9189 as amended by Republic Act 10590, all citizens of the Philippines abroad who are not disqualified by law, at least 18 years of age on May 13, 2019, and who are registered overseas voters, may vote for senators, and party-lists representatives.

All qualified Filipino citizens who are not registered overseas voters may file their applications for registration at the nearest consulate or other registration centers authorized by the Commission on Elections.

To register, all applicants must personally appear at the Consular Section for biometrics capturing and bring the following requirements: 1) Photocopy of valid passport or if dual citizen, 2) copy of oath of allegiance or proof of Philippine citizenship from the Bureau of Immigration; or for seamen, 3) copy of seaman›s book.

Filing of applications for registration shall be from Dec. 1, 2016, to Oct. 31, 2018.

The 30-day voting period will commence on April 13, 2019, until May 13, 2019, (Philippine time) at the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam. Time of voting to be announced later. ***(PR)***

Hazardous surf until this weekend

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operation Center's State Warning Point, seas of 7 to 8 feet will build to between 8 and 10 feet last night. Seas are expected to decrease slightly this evening but will remain near or just below 10 feet into the weekend.

A small craft advisory is now in effect from noon until 6pm Thursday. Winds of 15 to 20 knots will increase to between 20 and 25 knots with gusts to 30 knots around midday. Winds will decrease slightly this evening but will hover around hazardous levels into the weekend.

The EOC is advising the public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, to avoid sailing in these conditions. ***(EOC)***

Fiji cocoa farms receive recovery assistance

SUVA, Fiji—A number of cocoa farms devastated by Tropical Cyclone Winston will benefit from assistance provided by the European Union and Pacific community in an effort to boost the productivity of the agricultural sector after the cyclone struck early this year.

The assistance is being made possible through the Increasing Agriculture Commodity Trade project TC Winston Recovery Action; a FJD4.3 million initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.

The first recipient, Tomohito Zukoshi, co-founder of Fijiana Cocoa and Adi Chocolate brands, has recently received equipment needed to clear cocoa plantations and improve cocoa productivity.

The leading specialty chocolate manufacturer in Fiji is keen to develop a high quality supply of cocoa beans and believes that Fiji has the potential to become a regional leader in the cocoa industry.

Zukuoshi and his team are assisting over 100 cocoa farmers through training in pruning techniques and post-harvest handling, as well as the installation of three fermenter and drying stations for selected cocoa farms in the central and western divisions.

"We were all affected by Winston, but one of the positive things that has come out of this arrangement is that we get to go out and meet cocoa farmers who, like us, are recovering from and we bond over our shared knowledge and experiences. I hope we can create a strong network of cocoa farmers that will work together in the future to create a sustainable local cocoa industry," Zukoshi said.

Corrado Pampaloni, deputy head of delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, said: "The EU and SPC are proud to play our role in supporting enterprises such as Adi Chocolate through IACT. The project is not only providing equipment but also training farmers to improve processing methods that will strengthen the quality and productivity of the cocoa sector."

The assistance to cocoa farmers and processors is part of a range of Winston recovery support actions to a diverse group of commercial farms and enterprises in the agriculture and aquaculture sectors over the coming four months.

The assistance is offered in the form of building material, equipment, machinery and capacity building.

"The cocoa sector represents a diversification opportunity for farmers and this support enables the farmer to manage improved cropping methods and quality controlled processing, and most importantly links their production directly to the market," Inoke Ratukalou, SPC Land Resources Division director, said.

Among the equipment handed over were chainsaws, trimmers, brush cutters and protective gear that will be used for tree and land clearing, cocoa tree pruning and training in crop husbandry. ***(SPC)***

Big savings ahead as Shop Guam e-Festival launches today, Dec. 1

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Shop Guam e-Festival app has a beacon sensor that alerts users of any shopping, food, attractions and other special discounts near them.

TUMON, Guam—The biggest shopping event of the Western Pacific is back in time for the holiday season. The Guam Visitors Bureau announced yesterday that over 150 vendors will be participating in the 5th Shop Guam e-Festival, with more than 200 deals available for all shoppers.

This year's e-Festival begins on Dec. 1 and will run through Feb. 4, 2017. Shop Guam features a diverse set of shopping incentives to dine, shop, and play, making it a great addition to the holiday shopping season.

"GVB is excited to bring back the Shop Guam e-Festival for everyone to enjoy the exclusive deals offered by our Shop Guam partners and to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year," said GVB president and CEO Nathan Denight. "We encourage our visitors and local residents to download the free mobile app for a truly interactive shopping experience around the island."

In celebrating its 5th year, Shop Guam has become the first GVB global campaign to incorporate "Smart Tourism." Through the use of cloud computing, networking and the Internet, Shop Guam's app contains state-of-the-art mobile technology that can deliver real-time information on resources, services and activities to travelers and shoppers.

New beacon sensor

New to this year's Shop Guam e-Festival app is a beacon sensor that alerts users of any shopping, food, attractions and other special discounts near them. This allows the user to easily explore Guam and take advantage of great deals. The app is quick to download, easy to use and allows the user to redeem exclusive offers. The mobile app is available for free on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. It is also available in six different languages.

» **Over 200 deals available through new mobile app**

Vendors interested in the Shop Guam e-Festival or for more information, contact GVB's Shop Guam e-Festival Event liaison Catherine Bungabong at (671) 988-8871 or email shopguam@visitguam.org. ***(GCB)***

Moody's may lower Imperial Pacific credit rating

By MATTHEW CAMPBELL
BLOOMBERG

Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., the operator of a casino on the U.S. territory of Saipan, had its credit rating put on review for possible downgrade at Moody's Investors Service because of concern over funding of a project to build a new resort on the island.

The review of the B2 rating—five levels below investment grade—reflects a delay in selling bonds that will help finance the project, Moody's vice president Kaven Tsang said in a statement Monday. The evaluation will focus on the Hong Kong-based company's "ability to secure sufficient long-term funding" and the subsequent impact on its gaming license, as well as the "management of money laundering risk to ensure that its gaming business [on] Saipan is sustainable," Moody's said.

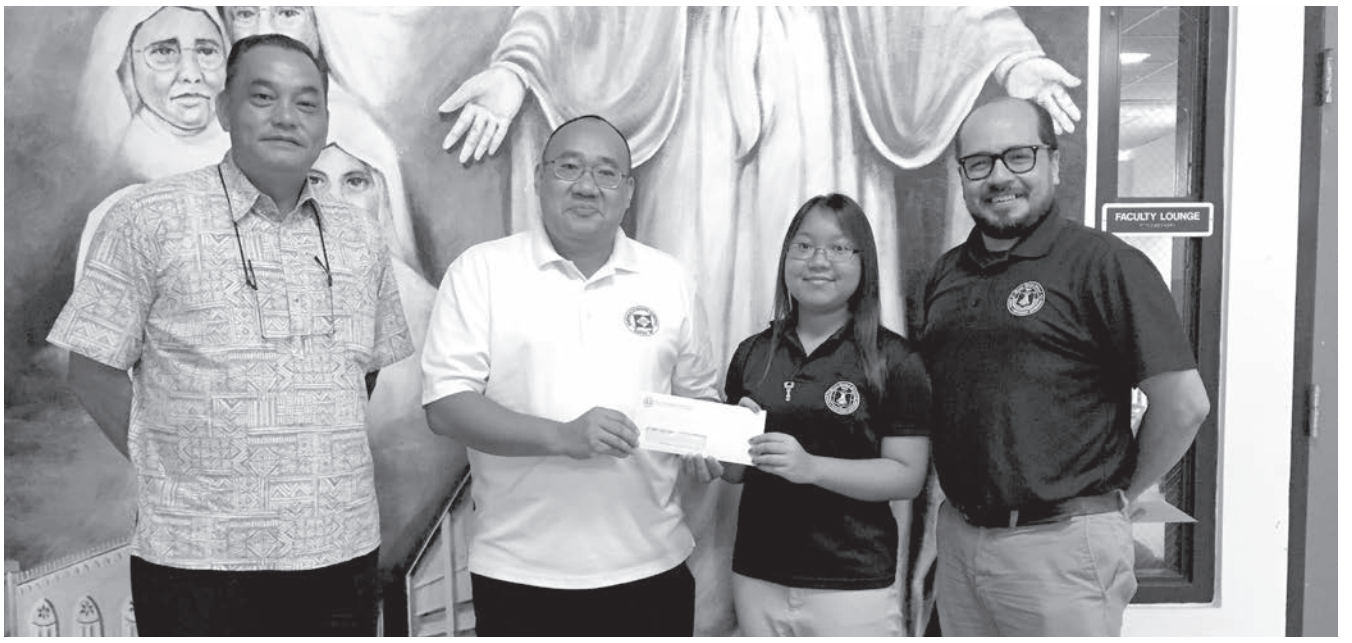
Shares of Imperial Pacific fell 0.9 percent in Hong Kong trading Tuesday, paring a decline of as much as 4.6 percent.

Imperial Pacific didn't respond to e-mailed and phone requests for comment. Moody's said it will withdraw its provisional B1 rating for the bonds because they have not been issued as planned.

The company, which until a few years ago was focused on the distribution of frozen food, is in the process of building a much larger casino and resort complex, and plans to sell as much as $650 million in bonds to fund the project. Its chief executive officer, Mark Brown, was formerly a senior executive in U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's Atlantic City casino operations.

Imperial Pacific has said that its Saipan operation complies with all relevant money-laundering and other regulations, and that bets are closely monitored by local and U.S. regulators. It has also said it is not aware of any investigation of the casino by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

ETC CONTRIBUTION
Representatives of Grandvrio Resort Saipan present an Educational Tax Credit contribution to Mount Carmel School. Grandvrio Resort general manager Akira Takaoka, second from right, and comptroller Kazunori Yabuki, far right, present the contribution to MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, center, and MCS Student Council president Zeno Deleon Guerrero, second from left. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Representatives of Saipan Stevedore Co., Inc., present an Educational Tax Credit contribution to Mount Carmel School. Photo shows Saipan Stevedore's general manager Mike Demapan, second from left and assistant manager Lee Cabrera, far left, presenting the check to MCS Student Council vice president Jaqueline Doctor, second from right, and MCS president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, far right.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

THESPIAN KNIGHTS
This is the first time in more than five years that Mount Carmel School has officially registered for the International Thespian Society under Educational Theatre Association. Troupe director Vir Abueme, far right, and troupe coach George Gomez, far left, gather with ITS inductees, from left to right, Jan Bobadilla, Kalea Borja, Monica Usi, Jeff Melchor, Jonelle Toskas, and Kalyn Diaz. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hyatt Saipan to celebrate 36th anniversary

Hyatt Regency Saipan will celebrate the hotel's 36th anniversary today, Dec. 1, 2016.

Throughout the years, the hotel has received awards and recognitions from the local community as well as international recognition. The hotel's restaurants are among the island's favorites, offering specialty dining experiences—fine dining Italian cuisine at Giovanni's, traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine at Miyako, and, a buffet style of international flavors at Kili Café & Terrace.

This year, Hyatt reflects on 36 years of operation as the sole international brand name hotel on Saipan and celebrates its relationship with employees and the community since its doors opened in 1981.

The hotel invites the public to the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony commemorating its lasting relationship of 36 years on Saipan. This year's honored guests will be first grade students from Garapan Elementary School. The festive holiday caroling will commence at 5:30pm. After a brief message from general manager Nick Nishikawa, the hotel's Christmas tree will be lit and a toast will be shared as the Hopwood Middle School choir fills the lobby with holiday spirit. ***(PR)***

Dynamic Int'l Airways' new flight schedules

By LI JING
CHINADAILY.COM.CN

Dynamic International Airways' new flight schedules shed lights on its ambition in Chinese market while it adds more charter flights to serve the lines between Chinese cities and U.S. islands in the Pacific Ocean.

The airline recently announced it will expand its charter flight networks between mainland cities to Saipan and Guam in 2017.

Three cities of Ningbo in Zhejiang province, Wuxi in Jiangsu province, and Qingdao in Shandong province will be offered the services during the first quarter of 2017, in addition to current 12 cities in China.

The airline anticipates the Northern Mariana Islands to welcome more than 5,000 Chinese visits during the Chinese New Year holidays, which starts from Jan. 27 to Feb. 2, 2017.

The Northern Mariana Islands in the northwestern Pacific Ocean is a commonwealth of the United States made up of 15 islands including notable island of Saipan, its capital. Since 2009, tourists from China are allowed visa-free entry to the Commonwealth, which help boost the Chinese tourist number in the region.

Dynamic International Airways inaugurated charter flight services from China to Saipan and Guam in 2016, operated with Boeing 767-300ER.

In addition to charter flights, the airline also launched flight from Anchorage of the U.S. to Nanchang, Jiangxi province in 2016 October.

Dynamic International Airways, headquartered in North Carolina, is a privately owned U.S.-certified airline, founded in 2010. Recently the company has added "International" in its official name to reflect its transition into an international long haul carrier.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the DPW Channel Bridge and Tanapag meeting hall and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Sobriety checkpoints on Rota

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section on Rota will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on:

■ Friday, Dec. 2, 2016:

1. First setup: 7pm to 8:15pm San Francisco Highway, Lotgan
2. Second setup: 9pm to 10:15pm San Francisco Highway, Sonton by Rota Hotel.
3. Third setup: 11pm to 12:15am, San Francisco Highway by Pinatang Park.

■ Saturday, Dec. 3, 2016:

1. First setup: 7:30pm to 8:45pm, San Francisco Highway, Tatachog by the Mayor's Office
2. Second setup: 9:30pm to 10:45pm San Francisco Highway, Guata

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes). In addition, traffic and patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(DPS)***

Notice to all 2016 candidates, political parties

The staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on Dec. 5, 2016, and on Tinian on Dec. 7, 2016, to notarize and accept filings of campaign statement of account forms for the 2016 election candidates and political parties.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 9am to 3pm on Monday, Dec. 5, 2016. Filers on Tinian may visit the Department of Commerce from 9am to 4pm on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. Proper identification with both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided.

For any inquiries, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. ***(PR)***

Family grief support group meeting today

The Compassionate Friends of Saipan will be holding its monthly grief support meeting today, Dec. 1, from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai. For more information, e-mail tcfSaipan@gmail.com or call Jill Derickson (989-9821) or Donna Krum (783-1900). To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. ***(TCF)***

USCIS officer at SHRM's December meeting

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will meet today, Dec. 1, at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's and will feature Kamana Mathur, the community relations officer of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Pacific District. Mathur will provide an opportunity for questions. CW visas and H-2B visas will not be discussed at this meeting. The meeting is from 11:30am to 2pm. The attendance fee is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-SHRM members. Register with Penny Jones by email at penny.jones@hyattsaipan.com or contact Penny or Lany at 323-5867 or 323-5867. Seats are limited, but still available. ***(PR)***

Military training on FDM

The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Dec. 2, from 8am to 11:55pm. The public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

Chamber to host career exploration day

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its "2016 Career Exploration Day" on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2016. High school juniors and seniors will choose a field of business they are interested in and will be paired with a participating chamber business. Students will be recognized at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall during the chamber's membership meeting on Dec. 7 at 12pm. For more information, call the chamber office at (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(SCC)***

SHEFA deadlines

The SHEFA deadline for new application only is on Dec. 1, 2016 .The deadline for all supporting documents is on Feb. 28, 2017. All documents must be complete and submitted at once. ***(SHEFA)***

Wage and salary statement workshop

The Division of Revenue and Taxation, Department of Finance will be conducting a workshop for the Annual Wage and Salary Statement, Form (W-2CM) for tax year 2016 and other 2016 yearend filing requirements. The workshop will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016. The first seminar will be from 8am to 11am and the second will be from 1pm to 4pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center. Businesses, employers and all payroll service companies are encouraged to attend. Please confirm your attendance by calling the Division of Revenue and Taxation at 664-1000 and 664-1098 or fax at 664-1015. ***(PR)***

Holiday closures at Visitor Center

The American Memorial Park Visitor Center will be closed on Dec. 25, 2016, Christmas Day, and on Jan. 1, 2017, New Year's Day. Park staff would also like to encourage the public to visit the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays closed, the VC is open every day from 9am to 5pm. If you have any questions, contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 or 2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ***(NPS)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Sunday, December 04, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes October 22, 2016

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**
   1. Discussion for hearing of appeal
   2. Discuss possible changes for applications for Spring 2017
      a. Graduate Etc. Program
      b. Ongoing Students' Requirements
      c. Follow up on Fall applicants pending documents

V. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTER**

VI. **SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING**

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

/S/ Antonio L. Borja
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

Time for your moment.
WE ARE HIRING
See us at
Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Saipan
10am - 7pm | December 8, 2016
Bring a Valid ID and Resume

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
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Retail CSR
Retail Bench Technician
Direct Sales Representative
Call Center CSR
Call Center CSR Lead
Account Executive
Business Sales Manager
Business Sales Engineer
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

US should not disengage from Cuba in wake of Fidel's death

With the passing of Fidel Castro, American policy toward Cuba is back in the spotlight.

The small island nation just 90 miles off of American shores has been ruled with an iron fist for over 50 years by Fidel and his brother Raul, who, in attempting to make real their visions of a communist society, have primarily succeeded in keeping Cubans poor and less free than most in Latin America.

Though the death of Fidel Castro is certainly not the end of tyranny on the island—he effectively handed off power to his brother in 2006—it is imperative that the United States learn from history and engage effectively with Cuba with the aim of encouraging greater freedoms.

Castro, who came to power in 1959 following the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista—an American-backed dictator whose rule later was described by President Kennedy as "one of the most bloody and repressive dictatorships in the long history of Latin American repression"—regrettably followed in the footsteps of his predecessor.

Mass executions, land seizures and the arrest of political dissidents became commonplace. More than anything, though, it was Castro's suspected and eventually confirmed commitment to Marxist-Leninist ideology that ultimately prompted the United States to take actions which not only failed to dislodge the Castro regime, but in many ways reinforced and emboldened it, to the detriment of the Cuban people.

In addition to numerous plots to assassinate Castro, as well as the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion, the United States imposed and has maintained ever since a trade embargo on Cuba, which, for decades, has been the regime's chief scapegoat for the ills and failures of communist rule.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Cuban economy, out of necessity, has gradually liberalized some sectors of its economy. But there is still obviously tremendous work to be done to expand freedoms on the island, restore basic freedoms of speech, expression and travel, and continue the process of liberalizing the economy. There are families to be reunited and religious liberties to be protected.

What matters most, perhaps, is how best to achieve the end of tyranny in Cuba, with the aim of actually improving the lives of the Cuban people and facilitating a more acceptable state of affairs.

In a novel approach among American leaders, President Obama, citing the "failed approach of the past," has maintained a policy of engagement toward Cuba, capped off by a historic visit to Havana and easing of the embargo.

It's an approach that may be reversed with the incoming Trump administration.

"Repression, open markets, freedom of religion, political prisoners—these things need to change in order to have

See US on Next Page

The man who couldn't be killed

By PATRICK J. SLOYAN
Los Angeles Times

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Patrick J. Sloyan is the author of The Politics of Deception: JFK's Secret Decisions on Vietnam, Civil Rights and Cuba. *He is working on a book about Ronald Reagan. He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.

There is a safe somewhere in the Central Intelligence Agency's headquarters in Langley, Va., that very likely contains a sort of tribute to Fidel Castro. It's a Cohiba, the cigar favored by the Cuban leader, dusted with one of the world's most lethal poisons—botulin toxin.

"Merely putting one in the mouth would do the job," John Earman, an inspector general of the CIA, wrote in 1967. By "job" he means assassination. Under orders from Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy, the CIA devised numerous plots to kill Castro. The revolutionary turned communist survived White House enmity for half a century.

The Cohiba was uncovered after CIA Director Richard Helms ordered Earman to get the truth behind rumors in the press of the assassination attempts. Earman's little-noticed 1967 report was finally made public in 1998.

The toxic stogie was the work of Dr. Edward Gunn, chief of medical services of the CIA's operations division. Gunn's career defied the Hippocratic pledge: "First, do no harm." At the dirty tricks division, according to Earman's report, Gunn was Dr. Do Harm.

In 1961, Gunn had prepared a box of 50 poisoned cigars, meant to land on Castro's desk in Havana. They were never delivered, and all but one were destroyed in 1963. The Cohiba that remained in the agency's permanent repository was a matter of some pride for the doctor. Although 6 years old, it "was still 94 percent effective," the inspector general's report said. It could still have caused Castro a quick and horrible death.

Gunn devised other attacks as well. In 1960, the CIA hired two certified mobsters—Sam Giancana of Chicago and Johnny Roselli of Las Vegas, the report said. Both patriots refused the $150,000 CIA assassination fee. But they balked at blasting Castro during a speech in Revolutionary Square. They insisted on poison that would be slipped by their Havana agent into Castro's teacup.

Gunn had trouble with the poison pill. Instead of instantly dissolving, it was still there after a night in a water glass. When tested, it failed to kill the guinea pigs. Finally, Gunn managed to send a monkey to a screeching death. Although the pill arrived in Havana, Giancana reported his agent "got cold feet."

Kennedy's failure to overthrow Castro in the 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco produced constant Republican attacks on his leadership. It resulted in what the inspector general's report termed "severe" pressure by Kennedy to eliminate Castro. Once more, Giancana and Roselli were recruited, and once again Gunn provided the means. This time, the poison was inserted in a pencil with a secret compartment carved by the good doctor. Once more, Havana agents failed.

"The plot was aborted and the pills returned," the inspector general said.

By 1963, Desmond Fitzgerald had taken charge of the CIA's Cuban Task Force. Fitzgerald became renowned at Langley for the laughter his schemes produced. They never got out of the lab. There was the midget submarine for planting explosives in a sea mollusk near Castro's favorite skin-diving area. And a plot to dust the interior of a skin-diving suit with bacteria that would cover his body in Madura-foot tumors, and another to infect his underwater oxygen system with tuberculosis bacteria.

"The fruitless and, in retrospect, often unrealistic plotting should be viewed in that light," Earman wrote.

The final attack was planned—but never carried out—in 1963 after one of Castro's closest associates was approached by the CIA. He was Maj. Roland Cubela Secades, a bearded student revolutionary who is pictured alongside Castro and Che Guevara in post-revolution victory photographs in Havana in 1959.

According to his CIA handler, Nestor Sanchez, Cubela hoped for American recognition as Castro's successor once his former comrade was dispensed with. He asked for explosives and automatic weapons with telescopic sights to do the job. As a physician, Cubela said, he could devise other methods as well. Gunn helped out.

In his CIA lab, Gunn carved out the guts of a Paper Mate ballpoint pen. Inside, he placed a syringe so fine that Castro would feel only a slight nick as poison was injected. Cubela was not impressed with Gunn's handiwork when Sanchez delivered it to him in a Paris hotel room. Even so, he placed it in his pocket. Cubela said he would devise his own poison for the syringe.

It was Nov. 22, and as Sanchez and Cubela walked downstairs to the hotel lobby, they learned Kennedy had been assassinated in Dallas. According to Sanchez, Cubela was rocked by the news.

"Why do bad things happen to good people?" Castro's would-be assassin asked his CIA handler.

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What now for Cuba?

By CHARLES HALE
The Dallas Morning News

Reactions to Fidel Castro's death at age 90 strike a depressingly familiar tone. Some celebrate while others mourn. These two responses may not be evenly divided in the U.S., but they certainly would be if we polled the hemisphere.

Castro's death dramatizes what we have known for some time: Cuba stands at the brink of change, now apt to accelerate and, with a Donald Trump administration to the north, will quite likely be disastrous. The tsunami of predatory capitalism poised to hit the island will be impossible to stop and difficult for the state to control or redirect.

Although these changes will enrich some—and already have disproportionately benefited those with close ties to the ruling party—they are sure to keep the majority impoverished, producing the same patterns of stubborn economic inequality that afflict Cuba's neighbors, both north and south.

In a visit to Cuba last December, I did see evidence of resiliency in areas for which supporters of the Cuban Revolution are justifiably proud: population health statistics that are similar to those of the U.S.; ingenious strategies for economic self-sufficiency (such as agro-ecology); an astounding reach of free, public education with rich and diverse communities of expert knowledge that put wealthier nations to shame; stalwart national pride in the face of great adversity.

Yet all these achievements are vulnerable, and predatory capitalism promises further erosion.

The Cuban model, at least as it has played out in dialectic with outright hostility from one U.S. administration after another, neither merits vigorous defense nor inspires unqualified admiration. Despite claims to have achieved racial equality, and despite substantive improvements during the first two decades of the revolution, today Afro-Cubans still face deep structural racism that has worsened with economic woes.

Exciting ideals of participatory democracy, meant to go beyond electoral politics to democratize all realms of society, have given way to authoritarian practices and newly created hierarchies. Rigid political control makes for a poor fit with market-oriented reforms, yielding irrationalities and dysfunctionalities that are both frustrating and unjust. Even supporters of the government with whom I spoke last December seemed fed up and ready for change.

But although it is hard to defend the "Cuban model" as such, the deeper legacy of the revolution does merit our affirmation. Castro and those of the movement he led were driven by the revolutionary idea that poverty, racism, political repression and abject dependency on the U.S. could be defeated, opening the way to build a society grounded in the values of equality, social welfare and self-determination.

We can and should criticize the many shortcomings and contradictions in the results of these efforts, but I for one heartily affirm Castro's legacy of audacious hope and willingness to fight for a noble cause.

In the face of our own society's descent into polarization, racial hatred, environmental destruction and deepened fears about the future, this image keeps me from despair: a new generation of young leaders similar to Castro who will forge their own utopian convictions that a different and better society is possible and who will act against all odds to realize their ideals.

Charles Hale is a professor in the departments of African and African Diaspora Studies and Anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. He wrote this for the Dallas Morning News.

Trump's false claims damaging to democracy

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg View

Donald Trump's accusations claiming that millions of people "voted illegally" in the election were quickly and definitively shown to be false. So why didn't the truth settle the issue? The answer demonstrates how Trump's habit of publicizing conspiracy theories could be a danger to the health of U.S. democracy during his presidency.

Remember, most citizens don't pay close attention to the news. But they do hear things a president (or president-elect) says, and if he says elections aren't honest, then many citizens will believe him. The less people trust the basic integrity of elections, the less they are likely to believe in democracy.

False claims of illegal voting have already been used as a cast ballots in several states, and it's possible that Trump will try to restrict these rights further.

Several prominent Republicans quickly challenged his accusations on illegal voting. This pushback was better than none, even if the president (or president-elect) will always have the biggest megaphone. Unfortunately, none of those objecting were Republican members of Congress—the ones who are best positioned to rein him in.

For all the talk about how strong the presidency has become, almost everything presidents do now that they didn't do in, say, 1933 is not a sign that they have become more power hungry. Mostly it shows that Congress has abdicated its responsibility.

And right now, the incentives for members of Congress to use their powers are mixed, as the New Republic's Brian Beutler points out. The incoming House and Senate majority is hoping to see long-held Republican proposals adopted, and antagonizing their thin-skinned president-to-be might threaten that goal.

But there's no reason to believe that the occasional opposition of a half-dozen or so Republicans on selected issues would slow down passage of a large tax cut, for example, or confirmation of a conservative Supreme Court nominee.

Not all Republicans support turning back the clock on voting rights. Even some (most?) of those conservatives who have supported marginal ways of making voting harder have not demonstrated an opposition to democratic norms in general.

They should remember that major events such as wars, recessions and scandals are what mainly determine a president's and a party's approval ratings, not congressional attacks on the administration.

In the end, members of Congress tend to do what their constituents want. This means that protecting democracy is, broadly, in the hands of those who can influence those legislators—from the big-money donors to the activists and all the way down to vocal individual citizens.

Many voters who supported Trump because they backed most of the normal conservative agenda will have no use for his anti-democratic tendencies. If they make their voices heard—by pressuring their congressional delegations or by organizing in ways to amplify their influence—members of Congress will listen.

Trump also incorrectly characterized his Electoral College victory as a "landslide." While there are no rules for what counts as a landslide, the count, which will apparently be to will be somewhat closer than usual. Of the last elections, only two had narrower Electoral College margins.

And beyond the specific topic, it's damaging to democracy to have elected officials making false claims without any evidence whatsoever.

Jonathan Bernstein is a columnist for Bloomberg View. Readers may email him at jbernstein62@bloomberg.net.

US

From Page 10

open and free relationships," incoming White House chief of staff Reince Priebus told Fox News Sunday.

Trump took to Twitter Monday pledging to undo the current "deal" unless Cuban leaders "make a better deal for the Cuban people."

While there's little disputing the desired outcomes, this is not the time to consider disengaging from Cuba. As the past five decades have proven, embargoes and not talking aren't especially productive means of engagement. Freer trade and open discussion are likelier to yield better outcomes for the Cuban people than the opposite.

(c)2016 *The Orange County Register* (Santa Ana, Calif.)

Under Trump, shameful capitulation to Cuba hopefully will end

By MARK DAVIS
The Dallas Morning News

As the Christmas season of 2014 unfolded, President Barack Obama began the delivery of a priceless gift to the communist dictatorship of Cuba. It started subtly enough as Obama and Fidel Castro made reference to a "new course" in relations between our nations.

The "old course," namely a half-century of moral clarity requiring reforms in Cuba before normalized relations, had grown tiresome to a president seeking transformations wherever they might be found. So why not a transformation away from regarding Cuba as a totalitarian pariah, into a new era of regarding the country as a cooperative friend and ally?

The complete lack of a basis for this capitulation did not slow the agenda of the next six months. The White House touted a "human rights dialogue" as Cuba was removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism_ not because they had improved their behavior, but because Obama wanted to get past the "failed, Cold War-era" policies that impeded the path to legacy enhancement.

But, funny thing about the Cold War: Cuba was still fighting it. We are the ones who stopped. And with our acquiescence, embassies were re-opened and cruise ships fueled up to bring curious tourists through the time tunnel into a nation held in suspended animation by the monstrous Castro regime.

Donald Trump made clear on the campaign trail that an American surrender to Castro's interests was not his style. Castro's death gave him a chance to contrast even more starkly the difference between how Cuba has been handled under Obama and what changes may await come Jan. 20.

The Trump statement called Castro what he was, a "brutal dictator who oppressed his own people for nearly six decades." It closed with a wish to help guide Cuba "away from the horrors endured for too long, and toward a future in which the wonderful Cuban people finally live in the freedom they so richly deserve."

Compare that to the moral vacuum of the Obama statement, which made no mention of the freedoms crushed beneath Castro's boot, noting that Castro "altered the course of individual lives, families and the Cuban nation." Indeed so, in the way that cancer "alters the course" of our health. But no such scoldings were heard from the president's statement, which said "history" will judge his "enormous impact."

Anyone with eyes to see knows Castro's impact. It was ruinous to countless lives dashed against the rocks of his tyranny, from the imprisonment and execution of political opponents to the suffocation of the basic rights of millions. But references to those truths by the White House would have cast an uncomfortable light on our inexplicable warming of relations, and prevented a paragraph of self-congratulation:

"During my presidency, we have worked hard to put the past behind us, pursuing a future in which the relationship between our two countries is defined not by our differences but by the many things that we share as neighbors and friends—bonds of family, culture, commerce, and common humanity."

Run that "humanity" line by the innumerable victims of Castro's murderous reign. The wholly unwarranted thawing of relations between the United States and Cuba was driven by the current president's personal and political interests. Let us hope that his successor will immediately halt, if not roll back these harmful messages, making clear that America will extend pleasantries to Cuba when its detestable regime corrects its ways.

When America is willfully blind to global evils, tyrants and terrorists are empowered. If President Trump is about to call a halt to this nonsense, the Cuban people will be moving closer to the dream of a free country, which can only happen when its leaders see there will be no further unearned rewards.

Mark Davis is a North Texas radio host and a special contributor to the Dallas Morning News. *Readers may email him at markdavisshow@gmail. com.*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and breezy. East winds 20 to 25 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

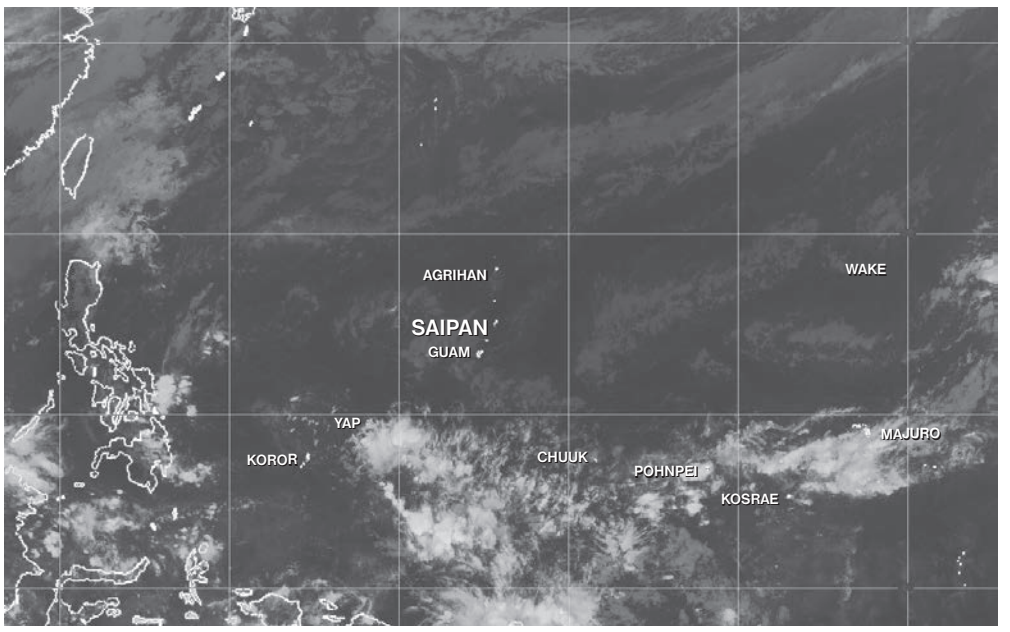
FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲89° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°

MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:36 AM, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar show a trade-wind disturbance slowly passing through the Marianas. Increased clouds and showers are expected for the rest of the day. Showers are expected to stay isolated, yet, will be scattered at times as clusters of showers quickly push through. Winds will be noticeably gusty just ahead of and during showers. A much more identifiable "butterfly effect" in the radar ground clutter over the waters east and west of Guam, combined with buoy and surface observations show increasing winds across the area.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	83 / 87 °F
Palau	Partly cloudy	80 / 86 °F
Yap	Afternoon clouds	81 / 89 °F
Chuuk	Mostly cloudy	76 / 82 °F
Pohnpei	Heavy rain	78 / 82 °F
Kosrae	Partly cloudy	83 / 87 °F
Majuro	Afternoon clouds	80 / 85 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Partly cloudy	57 / 68 °F
Beijing	Sunny	22 / 44 °F
Hong Kong	Afternoon clouds	59 / 72 °F
Honolulu	Partly sunny	72 / 78 °F
London	Sunny	29 / 44 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly sunny	48 / 64 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	81 / 90 °F
Melbourne	Sunny	56 / 72 °F
Miami	Partly sunny	75 / 81 °F
New York	Partly sunny	44 / 64 °F
Osaka	Morning clouds	44 / 61 °F
Paris	Morning clouds	22 / 43 °F
Pusan	Mostly sunny	38 / 54 °F
Rome	High level clouds	29 / 54 °F
Salem	Overcast	42 / 49 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	47 / 59 °F
Seoul	Mostly sunny	28 / 44 °F
Tokyo	Sunny	44 / 57 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	40 / 60 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
2:40 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.23 Feet
9:32 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86 Feet
3:10 PM	LOW TIDE	1.13 Feet
7:56 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.8 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	7:34 AM	7:13 PM
Friday	8:23 AM	8:02 PM
Saturday	9:11 AM	8:53 PM
Sunday	9:59 AM	9:44 PM
Monday	10:45 AM	10:37 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

GOP could repeal, before replacing, Obamacare

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress may vote to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law before coming up with a replacement, GOP leaders said Tuesday.

The approach could allow congressional Republicans to take swift action on one of President-elect Donald Trump's campaign promises, while putting off the hard part. And while repealing the law could be done with GOP votes alone, any replacement plan would likely require the cooperation of minority Democrats in the Senate, something that will not be easy to come by.

"Nothing's been decided yet but I would move through and repeal and then go to work on replacing," House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol. "I think once it's repealed you will have hopefully fewer people playing politics, and then everybody coming to the table to find the best policy."

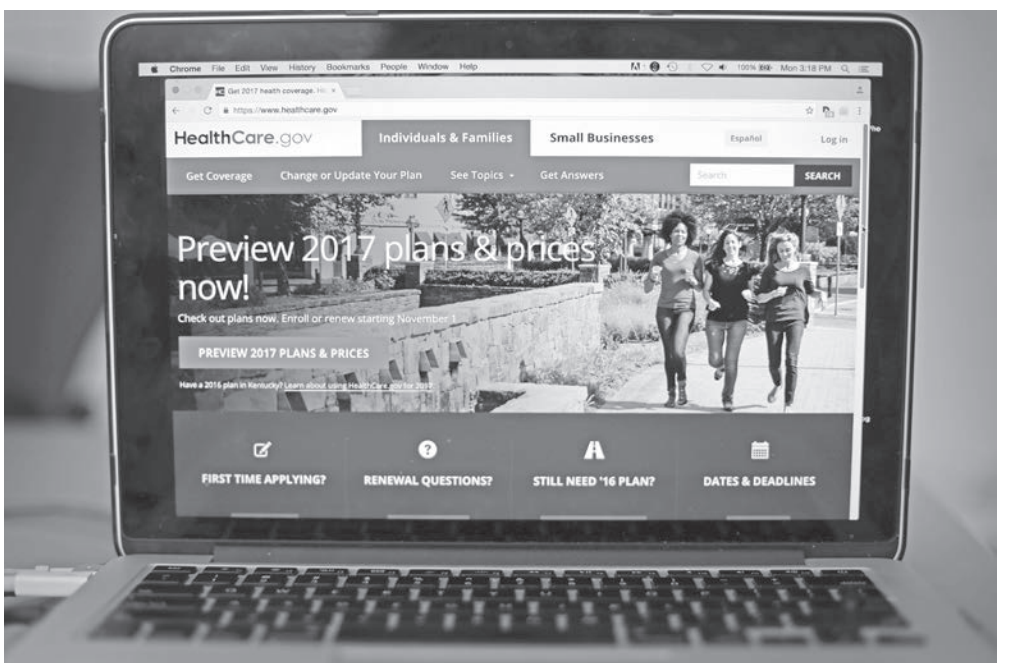
"We will get started on this right way," the California Republican added. Without specifying a timeline, McCarthy suggested Congress could vote on a repeal quickly, while putting off the date for it to take effect. As that date neared, McCarthy predicted, there would be political pressure for all parties to come together around a replacement.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate Republican, outlined a similar process, with a repeal vote followed by "a multiyear transition into the replacement."

"This is a failed piece of legislation and it's coming apart at the seams," Cornyn said, "but it's going to take us a while to make that transition from the repeal to actually replacing it with more affordable coverage."

Six years after the Affordable Health Care Act became law, congressional Republicans have voted dozens of times to repeal it in part or full. But they still haven't unified behind legislation to replace it, or to ensure that the 20 million people who've gained coverage don't suddenly find themselves uninsured.

Now that Trump has won the presidency and Republicans will control both chambers of Congress next year, the GOP will have to deliver. That is certain to be tricky.



AP
In this Oct. 24, 2016 file photo, the HealthCare.gov 2017 web site home page is seen on a laptop in Washington.

In one complication, Republicans can use a legislative maneuver called "budget reconciliation" to repeal the health law with a simple majority vote in the 100-member Senate. But to advance a replacement they would likely need 60 votes, requiring some Democrats to go along. Incoming Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York has already warned Republicans he will try to turn their efforts to repeal the health law into a political nightmare.

Democrats argued Tuesday that GOP plans to pass a repeal bill but delay the replacement wouldn't work. The resulting uncertainty could cause insurance companies to flee the marketplace, said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois.

"We'd find ourselves with even fewer options out there," Durbin said. "So I think the Republicans, in the sober, cold nights when they sit around after their 57th repeal vote, say, 'What in the world would we do if we repealed it?' They don't have a plan."

Treasury nominee Mnuchin was Trump's top fundraiser

WASHINGTON (AP)—Steven Mnuchin, President-elect Donald Trump's expected choice to be the nation's 77th treasury secretary, has had a long history as a successful financial executive and a shorter but significant period in a job that ushered him into Trump's inner circle: head of Trump's campaign finance operation.

When Mnuchin, 53, was chosen by Trump as his national finance director in May, he told The Associated Press that the two men had been friends for 15 years. Through his work as finance chairman, Mnuchin grew close to Trump's children and son-in-law, Jared Kushner—a top adviser to Trump—and worked with them on fundraising events.

The campaign raised at least $169 million, in addition to the $66 million Trump spent out of his own pocket. Though that was far short of what Hillary Clinton raised, it represented an impressive haul given that Trump didn't begin fundraising in earnest until the end of May.

A person familiar with Trump's decision said Tuesday that the president-elect will nominate Mnuchin to the Treasury position. The person would only discuss the nomination on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to reveal it ahead of the official announcement.

If approved by the Senate, Mnuchin would follow in the tradition of two previous treasury secretaries—Robert Rubin in the Clinton administration and Henry Paulson in George W. Bush's. All had vast Wall Street experience gained from years spent working at powerhouse Goldman Sachs.

Yet unlike Rubin and Paulson and unlike President Barack Obama's two treasury secretaries, Timothy Geithner and Jacob Lew, Mnuchin would bring no government experience to Treasury, something that could prove a hurdle in navigating the tricky politics of Washington.

Carrier says it has deal with Trump to keep jobs in Indiana

WASHINGTON (AP)—Air conditioning company Carrier Corp. said Tuesday that it had reached a deal with President-elect Donald Trump to keep nearly 1,000 jobs in Indiana. Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence planned to travel to the state Thursday to unveil the agreement alongside company officials.

Trump spent much of his campaign pledging to keep companies like Carrier from moving jobs overseas. His focus on manufacturing jobs contributed to his unexpected appeal with working-class voters in states like Michigan, which has long voted for Democrats in presidential elections.

The details of the agreement were unclear. Carrier tweeted that the company was "pleased to have reached a deal" with Trump and Pence to keep the jobs in Indianapolis.

A transition official confirmed that the president-elect and Pence, who is ending his tenure as Indiana governor, would appear with Carrier officials Thursday. The official insisted on anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the trip ahead of an official announcement.

Trump said last week that he was "making progress" on trying to get Carrier to stay in Indiana.

In February, Carrier said it would shutter its Indianapolis plant employing 1,400 workers and move its manufacturing to Mexico. The plant's workers would have been laid off over three years starting in 2017.

United Technologies Electronic Controls also announced then that it planned to move its Huntington manufacturing operations to a new plant in Mexico, costing the northeastern Indiana city 700 jobs by 2018. Those workers make microprocessor-based controls for the HVAC and refrigeration industries.

Carrier and UTEC are both units of Hartford, Connecticut-based United Technologies Corp.

In a September debate against Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, Trump railed against Carrier's plans.

"So many hundreds and hundreds of companies are doing this," Trump said. "We have to stop our jobs from being stolen from us. We have to stop our companies from leaving the United States."

Carrier wasn't the only company Trump assailed during the campaign. He pledged to give up Oreos after Nabisco's parent, Mondelez International, said it would replace nine production lines in Chicago with four in Mexico. He criticized Ford after the company said it planned to invest $2.5 billion in engine and transmission plants in Mexico.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Massive Chernobyl shelter safely put over exploded reactor

CHERNOBYL, Ukraine (AP)—Workers completed a massive shelter over the Chernobyl nuclear plant's exploded reactor on Tuesday, one of the most ambitious engineering projects in the world that one expert said had closed "a nuclear wound." The half cylinder-shaped shelter was locked in place over the plant's reactor No. 4 after being moved in on hydraulic jacks for two weeks. It marks a significant step toward containing the consequences of the world's worst nuclear accident, which occurred 30 years ago in what is now Ukraine. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko described the new shelter as "the biggest moving construction that humanity has ever created." Workers will now begin dismantling unstable parts of the original cover, the so-called sarcophagus, which was built over the reactor shortly after the disaster to contain radiation.

Canada PM approves controversial pipeline to Pacific Coast

TORONTO (AP)—Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Tuesday approved one controversial pipeline from the Alberta oil sands to the Pacific Coast, but rejected another. He approved Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline to the Vancouver suburb of Burnaby, British Columbia , but rejected Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline to Kitimat, B.C. These are the first major pipeline decisions for Trudeau, whose Liberal government is trying to balance the oil industry's desire to tap new markets in Asia with environmentalists' concerns. "The project will triple our capacity to get Canadian energy resources to international markets beyond the United States," Trudeau said at an Ottawa news conference. "We took this decision today because we believe it is in the best interests of Canada."

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Nation

Trump tapping Washington, Wall Street veterans for top jobs

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Donald Trump is enlisting a trio of nominees with deep ties to Washington and Wall Street to fill out his Cabinet, including former Goldman Sachs executive Steven Mnuchin as secretary of the Treasury Department.

On Tuesday, Trump also chose Georgia Rep. Tom Price to oversee the nation's health care system, picking a fierce "Obamacare" critic who has championed efforts to privatize Medicare. And he selected another veteran Republican, Elaine Chao, a former labor secretary and the wife of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, to lead the Department of Transportation.

Mnuchin's official announcement was expected as early as Wednesday, according to a person familiar with the decision who insisted on anonymity in order to confirm the pick ahead of time.

Mnuchin, 53, led Trump's finance operations during the presidential campaign and become close with the president-elect and his family. But he has no government experience, which could prove a hurdle in navigating the tricky politics of Washington.

AP
Steven Mnuchin, national finance chairman of President-elect Donald Trump's campaign, walks to lunch at Trump Tower, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, in New York.

If confirmed by the Senate, Mnuchin would play a central role in shaping Trump's tax policies and infrastructure plans. He would also lead an agency tasked with implementing international economic sanctions.

Mnuchin is expected to be joined on Trump's senior economic team by another financier, Wilbur Ross. The billionaire investor is considered the "king of bankruptcy" for buying beaten-down companies with the potential to deliver profits.

Trump spent much of Tuesday in his Manhattan skyscraper, racing through meetings with prospective administration hires as high-profile vacancies remain—none bigger than secretary of state. He emerged in the evening for a private dinner with former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who is on the shortlist for the nation's chief diplomat.

Romney spoke briefly to reporters after the meal, saying he has "increasing hope" that Trump can lead the country to a "better future."

A transition official said the president-elect and Vice President-elect Mike Pence will travel to Indiana on Thursday for an event with Carrier, the air conditioning company. During the campaign, Trump repeatedly used the news of Carrier's plans to move some business to Mexico as criticism of Democratic trade policies. Carrier tweeted, "We are pleased to have reached a deal with President-elect Trump & VP-elect Pence to keep close to 1,000 jobs in Indy."

Price, picked to lead the Department of Health and Human Services after more than a decade in Congress, helped craft House Speaker Paul Ryan's plan to privatize Medicare—a position Trump opposed in the campaign.

Price's selection raised questions about the incoming president's commitment to Medicare, among other popular entitlement programs he repeatedly vowed to preserve before the election. The Georgia congressman led GOP efforts on Capitol Hill to transform Medicare into a voucher-like system, a change that if enacted, would likely dramatically reduce government spending on the health care program that serves an estimated 57 million people.

Trump did not address Price's position on Medicare in a statement released by his transition team. The team did not respond to subsequent questions about it.

"Chairman Price, a renowned physician, has earned a reputation for being a tireless problem solver and the go-to expert on health care policy, making him the ideal choice to serve in this capacity," Trump said. "He is exceptionally qualified to shepherd our commitment to repeal and replace Obamacare and bring affordable and accessible health care to every American."

Officials say at least 17 sickened from Thanksgiving meal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco Bay Area health officials warned the public Tuesday to throw out any leftovers from a community Thanksgiving meal they suspect killed three people and sickened at least 14 people.

Officials are still trying to determine what specifically caused the illnesses, but they appear to have narrowed the source to a church-sponsored meal held at the American Legion hall in Antioch, California.

The free, community meal is an annual event that this year turned tragic. Thursday's feast hosted by the Golden Hills Community Church served 835 people, including residents of assisted living facilities, homeless people and anyone who wanted a holiday meal, health officials said.

All those who got sick ate food from the event and most became ill within 24 hours, said Dr. Louise McNitt, deputy health officer for Contra Costa County. The three people who died were admitted to the hospital on Friday and Saturday. More details about their deaths were not immediately available. As of Tuesday, one person remained hospitalized and the rest were recovering at home. Those who got sick ranged in age from teenagers to their 70s.

"Anyone with food from this event should not eat it, and should throw it away," McNitt told a news conference Tuesday. "This is likely a food-borne illness, but our investigation is ongoing."

The food came from a variety of sources. There were turkeys, hams and sweet potato dishes donated by volunteers who cooked them at home and other items that were prepared on-site, like instant mashed potatoes and stuffing, gravy and green beans that came from packages and were reheated, said Dr. Marilyn Underwood, environmental health director for Contra Costa Health Services. Officials had initially said Monday that eight people got sick, including the three who died, and thought all those sickened lived at the same assisted living facility, leading to suspicion that they could have become sick from food eaten at home or elsewhere.

But by Tuesday, as the numbers increased, officials learned that the 17 people were residents from at least three assisted living facilities. Not all 17 attended the church meal; some were family members of people who worked at the facilities who ate leftovers brought home to them.

Escaping wildfires meant fleeing through hell-like landscape

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (AP)—With flames dripping from tree branches and the air filled with embers, thousands of people raced through a hellish landscape as they fled wildfires that killed three people and destroyed hundreds of homes and a resort in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Fanned by hurricane-force winds, the flames reached the doorstep of Dollywood, the theme park named after country music legend and local hero Dolly Parton. But the attraction was spared significant damage.

The fires spread quickly on Monday night, when winds topping 87 mph whipped up the flames, catching residents and tourists in the Gatlinburg area by surprise. Police banged on front doors and told people to get out immediately. Some trekked 20 minutes to catch lifesaving rides on trolleys usually reserved for tours and wedding parties.

"There was fire everywhere. It was like we were in hell," said Linda Monholland, who was working at Park View Inn in Gatlinburg when she and five other people fled on foot. "Walking through hell, that's what it was. I can't believe it. I never want to see something like that again in my life, ever."

"Hell opened up," her co-worker Sissy Stinnett said.

In all, more than 14,000 residents and tourists were forced to evacuate the tourist city in the mountains, where some hotspots persisted and a curfew in place Tuesday night.

No details on the deaths were immediately available. More than a dozen people were injured.

The extent of the damage began to emerge even as smoke from the wildfires lingered late Tuesday afternoon.

The Castle, perhaps the largest and most iconic home in Gatlinburg, was destroyed. So was Cupid's Chapel of Love, a wedding venue.

Entire churches were gone. Scorched cars parked outside set on their rims after their tires had melted away. The only sound came from the eerie screech of hotel fire alarms echoing through the empty streets.

Ohio State attacker stewed over treatment of fellow Muslims

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—A Somali-born student who carried out a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University stewed over the treatment of Muslims while apparently staying under the radar of federal law enforcement, underscoring the difficulty authorities face in identifying and stopping lone wolves bent on violence.

Abdul Razak Ali Artan was not known to FBI counterterrorism authorities before Monday's rampage, which ended with him shot to death by police and 11 people injured, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

That's in contrast to several other recent attacks, including those in New York City; Orlando, Florida; and Garland, Texas, in which those blamed for the violence had previously come to the attention of federal agents.

Law enforcement officials have not identified a motive for the Ohio State violence but have suggested terrorism as a possibility. FBI agents continued to search Artan's apartment for clues, but California U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said he had seen no evidence Artan was directed by or was in communication with any overseas terror organization.

The mode of attack—plowing a car into civilians, then slashing victims with a butcher knife—was in keeping with the recommended tactics of jihadist propaganda. And Facebook posts that were apparently written shortly before the attack and came to light afterward show Artan nursed grievances against the U.S.

He railed against U.S. intervention in Muslim lands and warned, "If you want us Muslims to stop carrying lone wolf attacks, then make peace" with the Islamic State group.

"America! Stop interfering with other countries, especially the Muslim Ummah. We are not weak. We are not weak, remember that," he wrote, using the Arabic term for the world's Muslim community.

He also warned that other Muslims are in sleeper cells, "waiting for a signal. I am warning you Oh America!"

The posts were recounted by a law enforcement official who was briefed on the investigation but wasn't authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

On Tuesday, a self-described Islamic State news agency called Artan "a soldier of the Islamic State" who "carried out the operation in response to calls to target citizens of international coalition countries." The Islamic State group has described other attackers around the world as its "soldiers" without specifically claiming to have organized the acts of violence.

Asia

PH govt historian resigns over dictator's burial

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government's top historian resigned Tuesday to protest the president's decision to allow the burial of dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a heroes' cemetery, in a growing political storm over the entombment.

Maria Serena Diokno said in a statement that she will join protests against the Nov. 18 burial, including one scheduled at a pro-democracy shrine on Wednesday.

Diokno, who was chairwoman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, said Duterte could have blocked Marcos's burial in the cemetery despite a Supreme Court decision that dismissed petitions against the entombment.

Diokno said the burial was wrong, "denies our history, erases the memory of lives lost and destroyed, mocks the collective action we took to oust the dictator."

Marcos was ousted in a 1986 "people power" revolt, a largely peaceful, army-backed uprising that helped inspire similar mass actions against authoritarian regimes worldwide. His presidency was marked by largescale corruption and human rights violations, including disappearances, killings and torture of thousands of political dissidents.

Duterte, whose father served in Marcos's Cabinet, allowed the burial on grounds that there was no law barring his interment at the Heroes' Cemetery, where presidents, soldiers, statesmen and national artists are buried. It was a political risk in a country where democracy advocates still celebrate Marcos's ouster each year.

Duterte's decision was upheld earlier this month by the Supreme Court. Marcos opponents had 15 days to appeal the decision, but Marcos's family, backed by Duterte's defense and military officials, buried him at the cemetery last week in a secrecy-shrouded ceremony with military honors.

The stealthy burial enraged democracy advocates and sparked protests in Manila and other cities.

"President Duterte could have taken the higher ground," Diokno said. "But he chose not to."

Under Diokno, the historical commission released a study in July that opposed Marcos's burial at the cemetery, stating that he lied about receiving U.S. war medals and his "military record is fraught with myths, factual inconsistencies and lies."

Diokno is the daughter of a late nationalist and prominent senator, Jose Wright Diokno, who was detained for nearly two years without any charges under Marcos.

Diokno said she wanted to stay at the commission but was inspired to see many young Filipinos joining recent anti-Marcos rallies.

"They, we all, will guard our history," she said. "Never again will we allow any remnant of the authoritarian past to take hold of our country."

AP

Students shout slogans during a rally at the Rizal Park to condemn last week's burial of the late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Heroes' Cemetery Friday, Nov. 25, 2016 in Manila, Philippines.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia protests awaken fears for minority Chinese

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The capital of Muslim-majority Indonesia is on edge ahead of what is expected to be a second massive protest by conservative Muslims against its Christian governor and no group more so than its Chinese minority. They have reason to be concerned. The movement against the governor, who is being prosecuted for allegedly insulting the Quran, has overflowed with racial slurs against his Chinese ancestry and has awakened memories of deadly anti-Chinese riots in 1998. Hard-line organizers of Friday's protest are unsatisfied by a police decision earlier this month to formally name Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama as a suspect in the blasphemy case instead of arresting him. After police pressure, they have agreed to concentrate the rally around a national monument in central Jakarta and insist it will be peaceful.

Thai queen's health improves, leaves hospital for palace

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's Queen Sirikit, widow of recently deceased King Bhumibol Adulyadej, has recovered from a fever and lung infection and has left a hospital and returned to Chitralada Palace in the Thai capital, a royal statement said Tuesday. Sirikit, 84, had been staying at Siriraj Hospital along with the king until his death at age 88 on Oct. 13. She was admitted to Chulalongkorn Hospital on Nov. 16. Tuesday's statement from the Royal Household Bureau said her infection was almost gone, she was able to eat and walk well, and no longer had a fever. Her hospital discharge came the same day that her son, 64-year-old Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, was confirmed by the Cabinet and legislature to become the next king, a process expected to be completed in a day or two when he formally accepts the throne. His father Bhumibol had been on the throne since 1946, and his passing

S. Korean opposition parties agree to impeach President Park

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's three main opposition parties agreed Wednesday to stick to their plans to impeach President Park Geun-hye, dismissing as a stalling tactic her offer to resign if parliament arranges a safe transfer of power.

Park's conditional resignation offer Tuesday came as she faces nosediving approval ratings and massive street rallies calling for her ouster amid a huge political scandal involving her and a longtime shadowy confidante.

"The people of South Korea do not want to enter the new year with Park Geun-hye as president," Choo Mi-ae, leader of the main opposition Democratic Party, said at the start of the meeting. "There is only one way under our constitution to halt a term of a president and that's an impeachment motion."

After the meeting, the three parties told a joint news conference that Park must step down immediately without setting any conditions and that their push for her impeachment remains unchanged.

The opposition parties agreed to put an impeachment motion to a vote as early as this Friday or meet again if this plan doesn't work, according to Yonhap news agency. The Democratic Party, formerly known by its Korean-language name, Minjoo, couldn't immediately confirm the report.

The opposition have previously said they would try to impeach Park either this Friday or on Dec. 9, when a parliamentary plenary session is scheduled.

Support from two-thirds of the 300-member parliament is needed to impeach Park. The three opposition parties and anti-Park independent lawmakers have a total of 172 seats, meaning they need help from dissenters in Park's ruling Saenuri Party.

It was unclear how much Park's overture could divide those who earlier supported her impeachment. But some in the Saenuri Party have already raised the need to review whether to try to impeach her or come up with other ways for her departure.

If impeached, Park's presidential powers are immediately suspended until the Constitutional Court makes a ruling on her fate. The court has 180 days of deliberation.

Disqualified separatist Hong Kong lawmakers lose appeal

HONG KONG (AP)—Two separatist Hong Kong lawmakers lost their appeal Wednesday against a ruling disqualifying them from office because they altered their oaths with an anti-China insult.

The Court of Appeal sided with a judgment earlier this month barring Sixtus Leung and Yau Wai-ching of the Youngspiration Party from taking their seats in the city's Legislative Council.

It agreed with the High Court's decision two weeks ago that the pair effectively declined to take the oath, violating the semiautonomous Chinese city's Basic Law constitution covering oaths taken by officials.

The three-member panel said its ruling was backed up by Beijing's own controversial interpretation of the Basic Law.

In an act of defiance, Leung and Yau modified their oaths, which require pledging allegiance to Hong Kong as a part of China, by referring to the "Hong Kong nation" and using a derogatory term for China during their swearing-in ceremonies last month. They also displayed a flag that said "Hong Kong is not China." Yau, 25, cursed and Leung, 30, crossed his fingers.

"There can be no innocent explanation for what they uttered and did," the ruling said. "What has been done was done deliberately and intentionally."

The actions infuriated China's central government in Beijing, which responded with its constitutional interpretation that Hong Kong courts are required to enforce. But in an unprecedented move, the decree was released before the lower court came to a decision, sparking fears that Beijing was eroding Hong Kong's considerable autonomy and independent judiciary.

Leung and Yau were among a group of lawmakers newly elected in September amid a rising tide of anti-China sentiment driven by fears that Beijing is tightening its grip on the former British colony.

The ruling comes after the Hong Kong government indicated it plans to widen its campaign against the opposition by taking action against a third pro-democracy lawmaker, Lau Siu-lai, who read her pledge in an exaggeratedly slow manner in an apparent protest, pausing for a few seconds between each word.

The Justice Department said in a brief statement Tuesday that the government plans to take Lau to court but did not provide details.

World

Hunt begins for cause of crash that wipes out Brazilian team

LA UNION, Colombia (AP)—Colombia's worst air crash in two decades snuffed out a storybook run by a Brazilian soccer team, and authorities are digging in trying to figure out why a chartered jetliner crashed in the Andes, killing all but six of the 77 people aboard.

The country's aviation agency said Tuesday that the British Aerospace 146's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder had been found among the wreckage strewn over a mountainside and were already being studied by experts.

Initially, Colombian officials said the short-haul jet suffered an electrical failure, but there was also heavy rain when the crew declared an emergency and the plane disappeared from radar just before 10 p.m. Monday.

Authorities also said they were not ruling out the possibility the aircraft ran out of fuel minutes before it was to land at Jose Maria Cordova airport outside Medellin, a report given to rescuers by a surviving flight attendant. Officials said they hoped to interview her Wednesday.

AP

Rescue workers comb through the wreckage site of an airplane crash, in La Union, a mountainous area near Medellin, Colombia, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016.

Emotional pain resonated across the region over the loss of much of the Chapecoense soccer team from southern Brazil, which just two years after working its way into Brazil's top league for the first time in decades had fought its way into the championship of one of South America's most prestigious tournaments.

The aircraft, which departed from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, was carrying the team to Wednesday's first game in the two-game Copa Sudamericana final against Atletico Nacional of Medellin. Twenty-one Brazilian journalists were traveling with the team.

South America's soccer federation canceled all scheduled matches in a show of solidarity, while the Real Madrid and Barcelona clubs interrupted their training sessions for a minute of silence. Brazil's top teams offered to lend players to the small club for next season as it rebuilds, saying: "It is the minimum gesture of solidarity that is within our reach."

In a moving gesture, Atletico Nacional asked that the championship title be given to Chapecoense, whose upstart run in the tournament electrified soccer-crazed Brazil.

Three players were among the survivors. Alan Ruschel was reported in the most serious condition, facing surgery for a spinal fracture. Teammates Helio Zampier and Jakson Follmann also suffered multiple trauma injuries, and doctors had to amputate Follmann's right leg.

A journalist also underwent surgery and two Bolivian crew members were in stable condition, hospital officials said.

The aircraft is owned by LaMia, a charter company that started in Venezuela but later relocated to Bolivia, where it was certified to operate last January. Despite apparently limited experience, the airline has a close relationship with several premier South American soccer squads.

Massive rally begins honoring Fidel Castro

HAVANA (AP)—Regional leaders and tens of thousands of Cubans filled Havana's Plaza of the Revolution Tuesday night for a service honoring Fidel Castro on the wide plaza where the Cuban leader delivered fiery speeches to mammoth crowds in the years after he seized power.

The presidents of Mexico, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Panama, South Africa and Zimbabwe, along with leaders of a host of smaller Caribbean nations, flew in to Havana to pay tribute to Castro, who died Friday night at 90.

South African President Jacob Zuma praised Cuba under Castro for its record on education and health care and its support for African independence struggles.

Castro will be remembered as "a great fighter for the idea that the poor have a right to live with dignity," Zuma told the crowd.

The rally began with black-and-white revolution-era footage of Castro and other guerrillas on a big screen and the playing of the Cuban national anthem. Castro's younger brother and successor, President Raul Castro, saluted.

Cuban state media reported that an urn containing Fidel Castro's ashes was being kept in a room at the Defense Ministry where Raul and top Communist Party officials paid tribute the previous evening.

During the day, lines stretched for hours outside the Plaza of the Revolution, the heart of government power. In Havana and across the island, people signed condolence books and an oath of loyalty to Castro's sweeping May 2000 proclamation of the Cuban revolution as an unending battle for socialism, nationalism and an outsize role for the island on the world stage.

"I feel a deep sadness, but immense pride in having had him near," said Ana Beatriz Perez, a 50-year-old medical researcher who was advancing in the slow-moving line with the help of crutches. "His physical departure gives us strength to continue advancing in his ideology. This isn't going away, because we are millions."

Sudan bans 3 more dailies reporting on general strike

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudanese authorities have banned three more newspapers Tuesday, seizing all copies ahead of distribution as a general strike against fuel subsidy cuts and price hikes continued for the third day.

The independent dailies banned include the Al-Ayam, Sudan's oldest newspaper, as well as Al-Tayar and Al-Youm al-Tali. The move brings to four the number of newspapers banned since Monday, when authorities shuttered the daily Al-Jareeda. The privately-owned Omdurman TV network was also closed Monday.

Al-Tayar's editor in chief, Osman Mirghani, said that security agents came to the daily's printing press at the break of dawn to collect all issues before they were distributed.

The authorities offered no explanation for the raid but Mirghani told The Associated Press "we suspect our coverage of the civil disobedience was the reason."

Dozens of activists and members of opposition parties were arrested Monday—the second day of the three-day campaign—over allegations they engineered the call for the strike, in a day that saw the streets and classrooms of the capital Khartoum largely deserted

On the third day of the campaign, traffic remained slow on the streets of Khartoum and a large number of shops were closed. School students registered their attendance at classes then went right back home, according to an AP cameraman.

"Street traffic is less than half its normal rate today," he said.

Six female activists continued their hunger strike and sit-in for the third consecutive day at the headquarters of National Umma Party (NUP) in Omdurman, one of the activists, Amal Habbani, told the AP.

World's oldest living person celebrates 117th birthday

VERBANIA, Italy (AP)—Italy's Emma Morano, the world's oldest living person, marked her 117th birthday Tuesday, blowing out all the candles on her cake.

Beaming at the attention, Morano took in the festivities for her milestone celebration sitting in an armchair in her one-room apartment in the northern mountain town of Verbania, joined by her two elderly nieces, a pair of caregivers and her long-time physician.

She received a greeting from Italy's president, read by an official, wishing her "serenity and good health," and appeared for a brief live broadcast on state-run television. She happily accepted some gifts, including her favorite cookies, which she ate with some milk.

Then she blew out the candles on her cake—not one for every year, but three numerals to show her age, 117—and quipped: "I hope I don't have to cut it!"

To the assembled well-wishers, Morano said, "I am happy to turn 117," and drew encouragement from her physician, Dr. Carlo Bava.

"Who would have said it?!" the doctor remarked. "When you were young everyone used to say you were weak and sick."

"Yes, yes," she responded.

Another party, including a visit from the mayor and another cake, was planned for the afternoon, after a nap.

Morano, who is believed to be the last surviving person in the world born in the 1800s, became the oldest living person in May.

Italy is known for its centenarians—many of whom live on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia—and gerontologists are studying Morano, along with a handful of Italians over 105, to try to figure out their longevity. Bava has credited Morano's long life to her genetic makeup and positive outlook.

Morano was born on Nov. 29, 1899 in Verbania.

She has lived on her own ever since she left her husband in 1938 because he beat her. In an interview last year, she attributed her longevity to her unusual diet: Three raw eggs a day (now two raw eggs and 150 grams of raw steak after a bout of anemia)—a diet she's been on for decades after a sickly childhood.

Morano's sister, whom Bava cared for as well, died at 97.

Environment

Officials: Drought kills 102 million trees in California

In this June 6, 2016 file photo, Division Chief Jim McDougald of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection holds a piece of tree bark showing burrowing marks from a bark beetle infestation near Shaver Lake, Calif. AP

SCOTT SMITH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—The California drought has killed more than 102 million trees in a die-off of forests that increases the risk of catastrophic wildfires and other threats to humans, officials said Friday.

The latest aerial survey by the U.S. Forest Service shows there are 36 million more dead trees since May in the state and there has been a 100 percent increase since 2015.

"These dead and dying trees continue to elevate the risk of wildfire, complicate our efforts to respond safely and effectively to fires when they do occur and pose a host of threats to life and property," U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a statement.

California has endured five years of drought marked by a record low mountain snowpack and warm temperatures. The drought has left trees thirsty and prone to infestation by bark beetles.

Late last year, Gov. Jerry Brown formed a task force charged with finding ways to remove the trees that threaten motorists and communities.

Vilsack called on Congress to act, saying more federal funding goes toward fighting fires than forestry management, such as removing dead trees to improve forests' health.

Officials are pushing to turn more trees into lumber, burn them in energy plants or dispose of them in incinerators to eliminate them as fuel for wildfires.

Some environmentalists argue, however, that a die-off is part of a healthy forest's life-cycle. They favor leaving the trees that need to be cut down on the forest floor to decompose and serve as wildlife habitat.

Most dead trees are in the central and southern Sierra Nevada, officials say. However, they're also beginning to find dead trees in Northern California counties such as Siskiyou, Modoc, Plumas and Lassen.

More trees are expected to die into 2017, U.S. Forest Service officials say.

People assume the tally amounts to too many dead trees, but fire suppression has created unnaturally green forests with far too little wildfire and dead trees, said Chad Hanson, a forest ecologist at Earth Island Institute's John Muir Project.

"We don't want too much and we don't want too little," he said. "This is not too much."

EPA begins process to regulate toxic, widely used chemicals

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday released a list of toxic chemicals that will be the first reviewed under a recently enacted law that gives regulators increased authority to ban substances shown to endanger human health.

EPA's move comes after a key revision to the Toxic Substances Control Act that passed Congress earlier this year with broad bipartisan support. The list includes such common chemicals as asbestos and trichloroethylene that have for decades been known to cause cancer, yet EPA lacked the legal authority necessary to ban their use.

Over the next three years EPA will study whether the listed chemicals present an "unreasonable risk to humans and the environment." The agency will then have another two years to mitigate that risk through new regulations, which could include banning the chemicals from use in the United States.

Once EPA completes its review of the initial 10 chemicals, studies will begin on dozens of other suspect chemicals. With tens of thousands of chemicals manufactured each year within the U.S. or imported from other countries, EPA is prioritizing those that are the most dangerous and widely used.

"Under the new law, we now have the power to require safety reviews of all chemicals in the marketplace," said Jim Jones, assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. "We can ensure the public that we will deliver on the promise to better protect public health and the environment."

Valued for its resistance to heat and corrosion, asbestos was widely used for decades in such products as building materials, pipe insulation and floor tiles before studies linked it to lung cancer and other diseases. EPA first tried to ban the use of asbestos in 1989, but its decision was struck down two years later by a federal appeals court that ruled the agency had exceeded its authority.

I Am Safely Home

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." [John 3:16]

MATIAS CHARGUALAF

[Affectionately known as "**Mac**"]

born on September 05, 1948 to his proud parents, the late ***Angel I. Chargualaf and Maria A. Chargualaf*** and entered his new life in God's Paradise on November 26, 2016.

As he entered God's Paradise, he is greeted and reunited with his parents, his brother ***Joseph A. Chargualaf***, his parents-in-law ***Antonio Reyes and Maria Villagomez Deleon Guerrero***; his brothers and sisters in law, ***Pedro V. and Jeannette M. Deleon Guerrero, Rafael V. Deleon Guerrero, Gregorio V. and Vanessa Y. Deleon Guerrero; and, Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero.***

Mac lived a fulfilling, blessed, and enjoyable life with his wife of forty-two years, ***Celina DLG. Chargualaf***. His strong family ties, unique and warm personality, laughter, jokes, friendship, leadership, his willingness to help in every way he could, and most especially his unconditional love will forever live on in the hearts of his wife, his children and grandchildren -- ***Carol DLG. Chargualaf; Cathy C. and Dennis S. Matsumoto [Akoni Jesus and Logan Matthew]***.

His absence will be greatly missed by his brothers, sisters and their families -- ***Doris Nesmith*** and family; ***Ignacio*** A. and Frances Chargualaf and family; ***Benny*** A. and Jean Chargualaf and family; ***Johnny*** A. and Lou Chargualaf and family; ***Mary C***. and John Mendiola and family; and ***Evelyn*** A. Chargualaf; and shared by his brothers and sisters-in-law and their families – children of Pedro and Jeannette; Edith and Joaquin Cruz; Angie V. Deleon Guerrero; JM V. and Rieko Deleon Guerrero and son; children of Gregorio and Vanessa; Alice Deleon Guerrero and family; Ramon V. and Sophie C. Deleon Guerrero and family; Margaret DLG. and Ricardo Camacho and family. He will also be greatly missed by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends, especially his co-workers at the Saipan Mayor's Office and the VFA family.

Masses of intention for the repose of his soul are offered daily at 6:00 p.m. and the recitation of the Holy Rosary follows immediately at St. Jude Church in Koblerville. Mac ***will be with us for the last time on Monday, December 05, 2016. Visitation and last respects may be paid at Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. with interment services to follow immediately thereafter at the Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi where he will be laid to peaceful rest.***

Your prayers, thoughts and presence are sincerely appreciated.

CELINA DLG. CHARGUALAF
Carol, Cathy & Dennis and grandsons
Chargualaf & Deleon Guerrero families

Life & Style

'Moana' a Disney hit but portrayal irks some in the Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Disney's animated movie "Moana" debuted to critical acclaim and box office success over the Thanksgiving weekend, but some people in the South Pacific dislike how it depicts their culture.

Of particular concern is the movie's portrayal of the demigod Maui, who is shown as enormous and egotistical, albeit with a good heart. That has been jarring for some in Polynesia, where obesity rates are among the highest in the world and where Maui is a revered hero in oral traditions.

Criticism from the Pacific has likely stung Disney, which went to extraordinary lengths to ensure the movie was culturally appropriate after being accused of racism in previous movies such as "Aladdin" (1992). For "Moana," the filmmakers traveled to the Pacific and met with anthropologists, historians, fisherman and linguists, part of what they came to call the Oceanic Story Trust.

The fictional movie takes place 3,000 years ago in the islands of Polynesia, an area that includes Hawaii, Tonga and Tahiti. The star is 16-year-old Moana, voiced by Hawaiian actress Auli'i Cravalho, who goes on an ocean voyage with Maui, voiced by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

The movie made $82 million over the five-day weekend, placing it behind only "Frozen" (2013) for a Thanksgiving debut.

Disney suffered an early embarrassment when it decided to sell costumes of Maui, which featured brown shirts and long pants with full-body tattoos. Disney put the costumes in stores in time for Halloween, but quickly pulled them after critics compared them to blackface.

Producer Osnat Shurer, speaking by phone from Berlin where she was promoting the movie, said the moviemakers spent five years working closely with people in the Pacific to create what they believe is a beautiful representation.

"The costume fell short of that," she said. "As different things grow around the movie, sometimes they don't hit the same mark."

AP

This image released by Disney shows Maui, voiced by Dwayne Johnson in a scene from the animated film, "Moana."

Shurer said that when it came to figuring out the character of Maui, they found that different islands, villages, and even households, had different impressions of him.

"To some he's a Superman, to others he's a trickster," she said.

In all the stories, she said, Maui was clearly larger than life. At first, however, they envisioned him as a little smaller, and bald. But he just seemed to grow as the movie progressed. She said animators try to find the essence of a character and then exaggerate those features.

"We knew we wanted him to be big and wanted him to be strong," she said. "But he also moves with an incredible lightness."

She said she hopes Pacific Islanders see the movie with an open mind.

"I feel good about the movie we've created and that it can withstand scrutiny," she said. "All I can say is we did it with love and respect."

In New Zealand, the movie does not debut until after Christmas. But Teresia Teaiwa, a senior lecturer in Pacific studies at Victoria University of Wellington, said she was concerned about the portrayal of Maui.

"Before Disney, I've seen a lot of other representations, and Maui is a hero," she said. "I think it's clear from the trailers I've seen that he's a buffoon in Disney. It's a dramatic shift. He was a trickster but not a buffoon."

Teaiwa said if Disney really wanted to be culturally correct they would have paired Maui with a female deity, as he is in most legends, and not with a teenager.

"They wanted to get it right commercially without getting it wrong culturally," Teaiwa said. "But there are some things that they clearly didn't mind getting wrong."

She said there seemed to be a U.S. stereotype of Pacific Island men as huge, perhaps because the main exposure to them seemed to be through activities like NFL football.

Teaiwa said she was appalled by the Maui costume, particularly because some ethnologists from early last century had managed to collect the preserved, tattooed skin of Pacific people who had died.

"I thought it was macabre. I thought it was really creepy," she said of the costume. "It gave me the shudders to see something like that produced so lightly and in such a trivial way."

New Zealand politician Marama Fox, the co-leader of the indigenous Maori Party, said most Disney heroes tended to look far more muscular than Maui.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Gabriel Crisostimo Masga

February 7, 1948 - November 22, 2016

In his new life, he now joins his late:

Parents: †Adan M. Masga
†Cecilia C. Masga
Son: †Adam S. Masga

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his children:

Children and spouses:
Linda Santos and Ray Santos
Jessica Borja and David Muna
Nobert Borja
Gabriel Jr. Masga and Helen Reyes
Saturnino Masga and Barbara Masga
Cecilia Masga and Johnny Deleon Guerrero
Andy Masga and Hayley Masga
Anthony Joseph Masga and Jordana Brel

He is additionally survived by numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, December 3, 2016. Final viewing will be from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Borja Funeral Home. His remains will then be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Santa Remedios Church.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., followed by Interment Services at Tanapag Cemetery, where he will be laid in a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers.
Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

White House Christmas theme: 'The Gift of the Holidays'

WASHINGTON (AP)—For her family's final Christmas in the White House, Michelle Obama used the holiday decor to highlight her core initiatives as first lady: military service, education and health.

The familiar crowd-pleasers are still part of the annual show:

■ A towering tree dominates the Blue Room, trimmed as it has been in the past to honor the U.S. military and their families, an issue Mrs. Obama has emphasized.

■ Larger-than-life replicas of family dogs Bo and Sunny will greet tens of thousands of holiday visitors shortly after they enter through the East Wing.

■ And no White House Christmas would feel complete without the annual gingerbread version. This year's replica on display in the State Dining Room weighed in at more than 300 pounds, including 150 pounds of gingerbread covered in 100 pounds of bread dough to form the white exterior. Models of Bo and Sunny sit out front, and Mrs. Obama's revamped vegetable garden is represented.

Downstairs in the library, education is the theme. Ornaments on two trees are written with the word "girls" in 12 languages, honoring the first lady's "Let Girls Learn" initiative to help countries educate tens of millions of adolescent girls around the world. Other trees in the library are made out of crayons or pencils.

SP

The White House, is one of the fifty-six LEGO gingerbread houses, one for each state and territory, displayed in the trees in the State Dinning Room at the White House during a preview of the 2016 holiday decor, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, in Washington.

Mrs. Obama's "Let's Move" anti-childhood obesity is represented by a variety of fruit, to symbolize healthy eating, laid out in the Green and Red Rooms upstairs on the State Floor. Wreaths made of lemons and garlands made of limes decorate Green Room walls; clove-studded oranges, apples and pomegranates are mixed with greens to create wreaths for the Red Room.

"This year's holiday theme is 'The Gift of the Holidays,'" the first lady said Tuesday afternoon after unveiling the decorations for military families. "We're going to be celebrating our country's greatest gifts, with special decorations celebrating our military families." The theme is also meant to encourage people to reflect on "the true gifts of life," such as service, friends and family, education and good health, her office said in a statement describing the decorations.

Pirelli launches covered-up 2017 calendar with top actresses

PARIS (AP)—Pirelli on Tuesday unveiled the 2017 edition of its famed calendar, which sees photographer Peter Lindbergh mature beyond snaps of semi-nude models and set his lens on Hollywood.

The calendar, entitled "Emotional" and launched in Paris, stars 14 Oscar-winning actresses featured in black-and-white close up, in clothed poses with invisible make-up.

The photos, while beautiful, show wrinkles, lines and imperfections.

It's a dramatic move away from decades of risque shots that made the calendar, produced by the Italian tire manufacturer, one of the most recognizable in the world.

A roll call of A-listers including Charlotte Rampling, Uma Thurman, Helen Mirren, Nicole Kidman, Lea Seydoux, Alicia Vikander, Kate Winslet, Julianne Moore, Robin Wright, Lupita Nyong'o, Rooney Mara, Zhang Ziyi and Jessica Chastain all agreed to go near-makeup-free for the grown-up shoots.

Speaking about his artistic choices, the German photographer said that he's "not so fond of high heels and bikinis" and wanted to capture the nakedness in the soul of the calendars stars, not their bodies.

"In a time when women are represented in the media (as) perfection and truth, I thought it was important to remind people that there is a different beauty," Lindbergh said.

Mirren, 71, noted that the calendar's move toward less sexualized images of women—begun in last year's edition by Annie Leibovitz—marks "undoubtedly a cultural shift, a real opening up and a big change."

The 49-year-old Kidman added that the choice to forgo makeup and proudly look your age projects a good example of what natural beauty should be.

"(It shows that) the courage to be yourself is the epitome of confidence and power," she said, adding that "my husband (singer Keith Urban) totally prefers me without makeup on."

Thurman, with short swept-back dark hair, said that Lindbergh's vision was "beautiful ... wanting to free women from repressive and false standards."

Kidman, Thurman, Mirren and Rampling joined other celebrities at the gala launch of the Pirelli 2017 calendar Tuesday evening at director Luc Besson's Cite du Cinema in Saint Denis, one of Europe's most important film studios.

Labors of love: 10 librarians honored for community work

Librarians don't only help us find good books.

Disaster relief, cooking and training in academic ethics were among the skills honored Tuesday as the American Library Association announced 10 winners of the I Love My Librarian Award. The honorees, based everywhere from Conway, Arkansas, to Modesto, California, each receive $5,000 and were chosen from a pool of more than 1,100 nominations submitted by the general public.

"The I Love My Librarian Award is an incredible opportunity to acknowledge librarians as experts and valuable resources, essential to the success of their libraries and communities," library association president Julie Todaro said in a statement. "The fact that these nominations come from the people they serve gives us heartfelt testimony to the powerful impact librarians make every day through their work and commitment to their profession."

Winners included Danielle S. Apfelbaum from the New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury, New York. She was praised for her efforts to "create a more technologically sound library system." Elissa Checov from Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville, Georgia, was cited for working with young people "as they prepare to transition into college." In Charlemont, Massachusetts, Andrea Bernard of the Tyler Memorial Library earned lasting gratitude from one patron for bringing books to his home as he recovered from spinal surgery.

Lia Kharis Hillman of the San Francisco Public Library was credited for her work in bringing garden and food education programs to the library system.

Other winners included Olga Valencia Cardenas of the Stanislaus County Library in Modesto; Kathryn Cole of the Northside Elementary School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Tabatha "Tabby" Farney from the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs, Colorado; Sherri Ginsberg of the Hillsides Library in Pasadena, California; Jamille Rogers, of the Marguerite Vann Elementary School in Conway; and Roosevelt Weeks, Sr. of the Houston Public Library.

The award was established in 2008 and is sponsored by the library association, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the New York Public Library and *The New York Times*. ***(AP)***

Truck driver who struck Tracy Morgan's van pleads guilty

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP)—The truck driver who slammed into the back of a van carrying actor-comedian Tracy Morgan and several other people, killing one of them, pleaded guilty Tuesday and could avoid jail time.

Kevin Roper entered the plea in state Superior Court to vehicular homicide and four counts of aggravated assault.

Roper was driving a Wal-Mart truck in June 2014 when he crashed into Morgan's van on the New Jersey Turnpike. The group was returning from Morgan's show in Delaware.

The 37-year-old Jonesboro, Georgia, resident had also faced an aggravated manslaughter count, which is punishable by a 10-to-30-year prison term on conviction. Vehicular homicide carries a 10-year maximum prison sentence.

Under terms of Roper's plea, he can avoid prison and won't have a criminal record if he performs community service and satisfies other conditions over the next three years, according to his attorney, David Glassman.

"He is grateful for the opportunity to accept responsibility and move forward in doing what is required to obtain a dismissal of the charges pending against him," Glassman said in an email to The Associated Press.

Comedian James McNair died and Morgan and three other passengers were injured in the crash. Morgan suffered a broken leg, broken ribs and head injuries.

The former "30 Rock" and "Saturday Night Live" star made his first public appearance after the accident in June 2015 and made a surprise appearance at the Emmys three months later.

Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc. settled separate lawsuits in 2015 brought by Morgan and by McNair's two children.

Dolly Parton heartbroken by wildfires torching her hometown

ATLANTA (AP)—Country music icon Dolly Parton says she's heartbroken about wildfires that tore through the Tennessee county where she grew up but spared the Dollywood theme park that bears her name.

In a statement released Tuesday by her publicists, Parton said she's been watching the "terrible fires" in the Great Smoky Mountains. At least 14,000 people have been forced to evacuate the tourist area of Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Three people were killed in the wildfires, and more than a dozen others were injured, authorities said.

Parton

"I am praying for all the families affected by the fire and the firefighters who are working so hard to keep everyone safe," she said.

In a video released just hours before the wildfires engulfed Gatlinburg and areas around Pigeon Forge, Parton urged people to prevent forest fires.

Parton appears with Smokey Bear in the 30-second video released Sunday by Great Smoky Mountains National Park. She tells people to avoid burning leaves and parking vehicles on dry grass, and warns that even a campfire can spark a wildfire.

Dollywood officials said the theme park itself wasn't damaged but more than a dozen cabins operated by the park were damaged or destroyed by the wildfires.

Parton is scheduled to appear on NBC's "The Voice" on Tuesday night, her representatives had previously announced. She will perform her 1973 hit song "Jolene" with Miley Cyrus and Pentatonix.

Parton is a native of Sevier County, Tennessee, which includes both Gatlinburg and nearby Pigeon Forge, according to historical documents on the park's website. In the mid-1980s, Parton partnered with the Herschend family who ran the park, then known as Silver Dollar City. It opened under the new name of Dollywood in 1986.

Wife's job at the gym has husband in a sweat

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married for almost 11 years and have three children. About four years ago my wife cheated on me and left. After a six-week split, we decided we wanted to work things out. Everything was great—until recently, when she got a job working at a busy gym.

Several of the guys from the gym have added her on Facebook and send her messages. They like all her posts and pictures. I work out there and when I go in, I see her laughing and joking with them. This has all started to bring me flashbacks to when she cheated.

I tried talking to her about how I feel, but she just says they are my insecurity issues and I need to deal with them. At this point, I'm contemplating divorce so I won't go through the same pain I went through last time. I check her Facebook page constantly to see if she has added any new guys and see what comments they are leaving. I know it's not healthy, and it makes me constantly depressed.

My wife has no interest in marriage counseling, but tells me I should seek professional help for my issues. Is there any saving this marriage, or is it time to move on?

THREATENED IN TEXAS

DEAR THREATENED: Part of your wife's job is to be friendly to the members of that gym. It doesn't mean that she's involved with any of them outside of work. The problem with jealousy and insecurity is that unless they are managed, they tend to feed on each other and grow. While I can't banish the suspicions from your mind, some sessions with a licensed mental health professional might help you to put them into perspective. It may save your marriage. However, if it doesn't ease your mind, you can always talk to a lawyer.

DEAR ABBY: I take a maintenance pain pill for arthritis. I count them every other day to make sure that I'm not taking too many.

My daughter has been coming to my house a lot lately, and —not every time, but off and on—I'll count my pills after she leaves, and my count doesn't match the one from the day before. Sometimes I'm missing almost all of them, but when I talk to my daughter and ask if she took them, she always says she didn't. If I ask nicely, "Are you sure?" she accuses me of calling her a liar.

I know she's taking them, but I don't know what to do about her lying to me about it. I really need the pills for myself. The doctor prescribes them only once a month, and I know I'm going to run out.

What should I do? I don't want to hurt my daughter's feelings, but she needs to stop taking my pills.

IN PAIN IN KANSAS

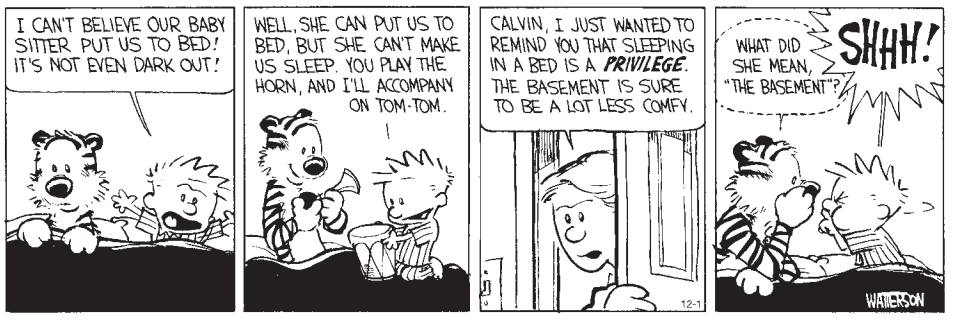
DEAR IN PAIN: Your daughter may have become addicted to your pain medication or be selling them to people who are. It's time to start keeping your pills under lock and key. Once you do, your daughter may be forced to come clean about the lying—or you may find you're seeing a lot less of her than you presently do.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

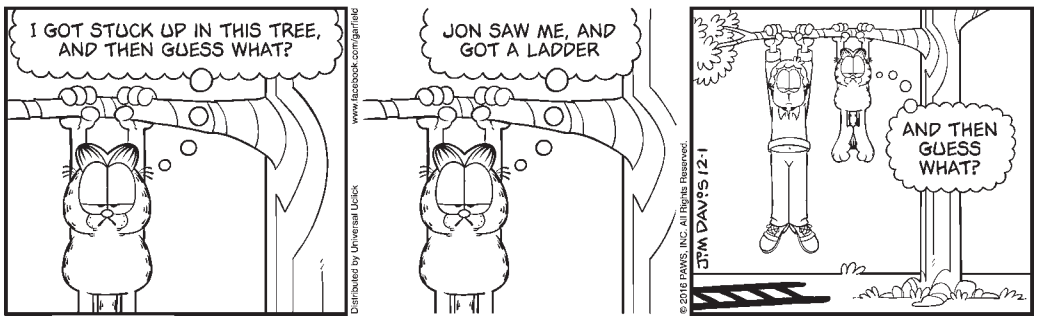
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR BABY SITTER PUT US TO BED! IT'S NOT EVEN DARK OUT!
WELL, SHE CAN PUT US TO BED, BUT SHE CAN'T MAKE US SLEEP. YOU PLAY THE HORN, AND I'LL ACCOMPANY ON TOM-TOM.
CALVIN, I JUST WANTED TO REMIND YOU THAT SLEEPING IN A BED IS A PRIVILEGE. THE BASEMENT IS SURE TO BE A LOT LESS COMFY.
WHAT DID SHE MEAN, "THE BASEMENT"?
SHHH!
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I GOT STUCK UP IN THIS TREE, AND THEN GUESS WHAT?
JON SAW ME, AND GOT A LADDER
AND THEN GUESS WHAT?
JIM DAVIS 12-1
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Distributed by Universal Uclick
www.facebook.com/garfield

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

IS DAD OKAY?
HE'S FINE, SWEETIE. JUST A BIT UPSET.
THAT COVER TYPO IS DELAYING THE RELEASE OF HIS BOOK QUITE A BIT.
OKAY. HE'S JUST LISTENING TO WEIRD MUSIC IN HIS OFFICE.
WHAT MUSIC?
K-TEL'S 14 MOST DEPRESSING FUNERAL DIRGES.
OH, BOY. HE'S BREAKING OUT THE BIG GUNS.
MARRELL
12-1
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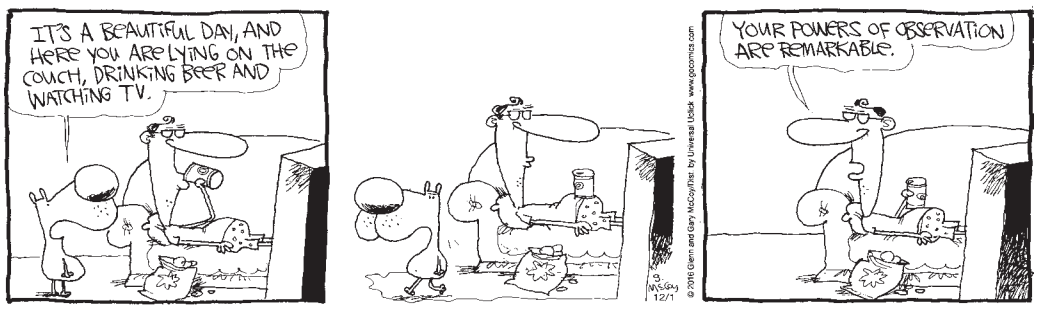
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, AND HERE YOU ARE LYING ON THE COUCH, DRINKING BEER AND WATCHING TV.
YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION ARE REMARKABLE.
© 2016 Glenn and Gary McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com
12/1

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

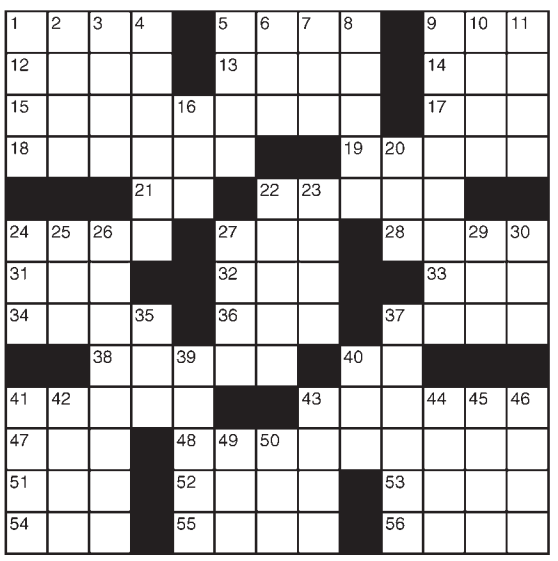
ACROSS
1 Tart flavor
5 Not so hot?
9 Tease
12 Computer brand
13 Isaac's eldest
14 — out a living
15 Large primates
17 Capitol Hill VIP
18 Pulpit delivery
19 "— to Be You"
21 Italian river
22 Winter quaff
24 Crashes (into)
27 Junior
28 Grand tale
31 "Exodus" hero
32 Flightless bird
33 Comic Philips
34 Like paraffin
36 Director Craven
37 Catch sight of
38 Raise a glass to
40 "This is — outrage!"
41 Utter disorder
43 Secret matters
47 "Alley —"
48 Winslow Homer paintings
51 Churchill gesture
52 Apiece
53 iPhone voice
54 Mag. staff
55 Verifiable
56 Termini

DOWN
1 Labels
2 Farm fraction
3 — -do-well
4 Pop's pop
5 Withdraw gradually
6 Nile biter
7 "Norma —"
8 Bach's output
9 Molds anew
10 Furniture brand
11 Flex
16 As well
20 Sock part
22 Cupid's teammate
23 Burden
24 Cold and damp
25 Altar constellation
26 Personal song compilations
27 Stitches
29 Little rascal
30 Coquettish
35 "— -hoo!"
37 Sheathe
39 Plus
40 Rainbow shape
41 Inlet
42 Tackled weeds
43 Tennis legend Arthur
44 Neat as —
45 Dweeb
46 Unrepaired
49 Listener
50 Prefix with puncture

Solution time: 26 mins.

A	N	N	A	■	H	A	M	■	I	B	I	S	
L	O	A	N	■	A	N	A	■	N	U	N	S	
B	U	R	G	U	N	D	Y	■	D	R	A	T	
A	S	C	E	N	D	■	A	L	I	G	N	S	
■	■	■	L	I	L	■	N	O	A	H	■	■	
E	B	B	■	T	E	D	■	S	N	E	A	D	
S	T	U	B	■	D	O	N	■	A	R	T	I	
P	U	R	R	S	■	C	O	B	■	S	A	G	
■	■	■	G	U	S	T	■	T	O	P	■	■	
S	A	L	I	N	E	■	T	R	O	I	K	A	
A	L	A	S	■	B	U	R	G	E	O	N	S	
C	O	R	E	■	O	S	U	■	S	T	O	P	
K	E	Y	S	■	W	O	E	■	Y	A	W	S	

Yesterday's answer 12-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sarah Silverman, 46; Nestor Carbonell, 49; Bette Midler, 71; Woody Allen, 81.

Happy Birthday: Take advantage of every opportunity to get ahead. Avoid indulgences by making structured progress that will help bring greater opportunity, improve your financial situation and enhance your living situation by easing stress and adding comfort. Less is more this year on all levels. Look for quality, strive for simplicity and aim for peace of mind. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 27, 32, 41, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take a long, hard look at what's going on around you before you step into an emotional confrontation. Consider every angle before you make a comment you cannot retract. Watch your dietary intake. You can enjoy without being indulgent. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Greater involvement in activities or events that align with your beliefs will expand your friendship with someone who shares your concerns. Romance is on the rise. Travel plans can be made and family gatherings or school reunions discussed. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Money matters will surface. Don't lend or borrow. Living within your means and working hard to establish a secure financial future should be your main concern. Start a dialogue with someone in a key position to help you strategize and reach your goals. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Delve into the intricacies that a partnership offers. Check out how you can work with the person who fits your plans personally or professionally. Take the time to visit a destination that can play an important role in the way your plans progress. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Listen to suggestions, but don't believe everything you hear. Someone will have ulterior motives that may not benefit you. A professional change may not be physically doable, but it is worth considering for future prospects. Make domestic changes. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Becoming a participant doesn't mean that you have to follow the leader. Gather information and study the ins and outs of whatever situation you face. Take the path that allows you to use your skills successfully. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Travel, meetings or educational pursuits will lead to new beginnings. Participate in events that will bring you in contact with interesting people. A partnership looks promising. Discuss your ideas and implement the contributions into your plans. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Dismiss what other people do. Concentrate on what you do best and how you can make the most of your attributes. Importing new ideas into an old plan will help you turn an important corner. Trust your instincts and follow through. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let anyone toy with your emotions. Look at the big picture and make adjustments that will ensure you are the one to benefit. A problem with someone from your past is best dealt with before it grows. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Emotions will rise to the surface. Whether dealing with a friend, relative or someone you've never met before, stay calm and reserved regarding how much time and effort you are willing to contribute. Personal gains should take top priority. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A sensible attitude will help you avoid someone who is trying to take advantage of you. Stick to the people and prospects that are a sure thing. You don't need to take any big risks. Show discipline and be willing to work hard. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your insight and ability to make a difference in others' lives will help you deal with the outcome of any situation you face. Don't go along with someone else's approach if their actions do not resolve the issues you face. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are entertaining and quick to respond. You are progressive and thoughtful.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4						2		8
	3			6			9	
9			1		3			
		8				9		
	4			3			7	
		1				6		
			4		8			1
	6			1			5	
1		9						2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	6	4	8	7	1	9	5	3
8	9	7	6	5	3	2	4	1
5	3	1	2	4	9	7	8	6
3	2	8	7	6	5	1	9	4
1	5	6	4	9	8	3	7	2
4	7	9	1	3	2	5	6	8
7	8	3	5	2	4	6	1	9
6	4	2	9	1	7	8	3	5
9	1	5	3	8	6	4	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

USING RULERS **Solution: 8 letters**

E	A	H	B	S	R	E	B	M	U	N	L	E	A	D
L	G	T	L	H	E	I	G	H	T	R	E	L	U	R
B	A	D	U	O	O	F	F	I	C	E	I	R	G	E
A	T	I	E	R	L	A	T	E	M	N	A	C	N	T
T	E	W	P	T	B	C	G	E	E	B	I	I	I	N
C	L	D	R	R	H	T	O	S	L	L	L	M	D	E
A	T	E	I	E	E	G	M	E	Y	P	T	S	L	P
R	A	C	N	S	A	A	I	R	S	A	L	E	O	R
T	B	S	T	G	T	D	C	A	L	T	O	H	F	A
E	L	E	S	H	T	A	I	F	R	E	N	C	H	C
R	E	W	A	R	D	H	N	N	Ⓚ	T	G	N	S	I
E	S	I	D	E	V	R	U	C	G	Ⓢ	S	I	A	R
S	K	N	I	R	H	S	R	R	E	T	Ⓔ	M	C	T
A	N	G	L	E	R	U	S	A	E	M	Y	Ⓓ	I	E
L	A	C	I	N	H	C	E	T	E	K	C	O	P	M

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Acrylic, Agate, Angle, Blueprints, Carpenter, Curved, Desk, Distance, Drawer, Durable, Fabric, Fact, Flat, Folding, French, Height, Inches, Laser, Lead, Length, Lines, Long, Math, Measure, Metal, Meter, Metric, Numbers, Office, Picas, Pocket, Reading, Retractable, Ruler, Sewing, Short, Shrink, Spline, Straightedge, Tables, Technical, Width

Yesterday's Answer: Dresses

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Cepeda, Ma Lihua Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0217
vs.	)	
Cepeda, Vicente Joaquin Respondent,	)	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501365, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 18th day of November, 2016

/s/ Clerk of Court

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DCCA-045

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 30, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF A CLASS "D" VEHICLE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

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SECRETARY OF DCCA

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
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Job Announcement for Position of Passenger Service Staff

Eastar Jet Co., Ltd. at Saipan International Airport (SPN) will have opening for **one (1) Passenger Service Staff** beginning December 15, 2016. The position requires a College Degree of any major, with or without experience, can speak Korean and English languages. The applicant will be responsible for the recruitment of U.S. citizen workers. The closing date for applications is December 9, 2016. Interested applicants must send their resume to: sn23479@gmail.com. Please contact me should you require any clarifications.

Eastar Jet Co.,Ltd
SENA LEE, Regional Manager, SAIPAN,
USA Tel: 1 670 785 3869 / Mob: 1 670 785 3869

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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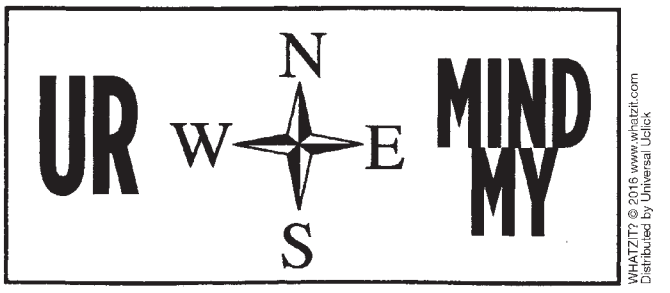

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Kilpatrick, Nets rally for double-OT victory over Clippers

NEW YORK (AP)—CP3 mimicked giving CPR on a night that looked like lots of laughs for Los Angeles.

Funny turned to fiery by the end, as an enraged Doc Rivers was thrown out as his team blew one in Brooklyn.

Sean Kilpatrick scored 31 of his career-high 38 points after the third quarter and the Nets stopped a seven-game losing streak with a 127-122 double-overtime victory over the Clippers on Tuesday night.

The Clippers started the game without Blake Griffin, ended it without Rivers and dropped their third straight game by coughing up an 18-point lead while not showing enough respect for the game in their coach's mind.

"We were walking around like we done something and that bothers me because we've done (nothing). We haven't done (anything)," Rivers said. "For us to walk around against a team, that to me is playing their hearts out every night just to win one game, us to walk around like we done something, it bothers me on a basketball level."

Chris Paul had 26 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, but the best guard on the floor in crunch time was Kilpatrick, who also had a career-best 14 rebounds.

Brook Lopez added 27 points for the Nets, who trailed 86-68 with 2 minutes left in the third quarter.

"We were down 20, then next minute you know we just kept chipping it down," Kilpatrick said. "Then next minute I knew we were down four, and I was like yo, it's on now. It's game time."

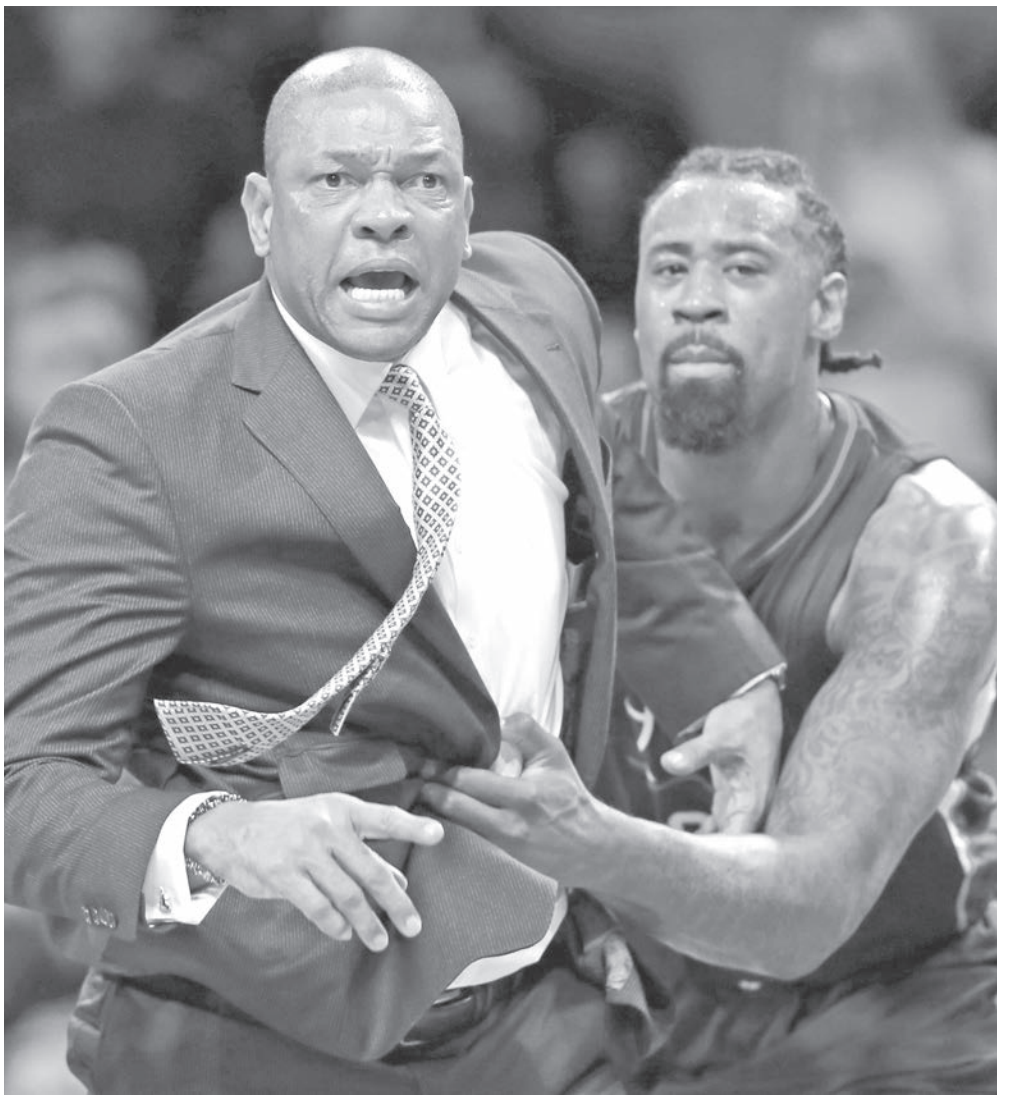
DeAndre Jordan had 21 points and 23 rebounds for the Clippers, who rested Griffin, their leading scorer, ahead of a game in Cleveland on Thursday.

"Anybody in the league knows, they say, you mess with the game and like you said, the basketball gods got us," Paul said.

The Clippers started 39-year-old Paul Pierce, who had played in just two games, in place of Griffin. Pierce had played just 17 minutes all season but logged 29 minutes in this one, such an increase in workload that Paul pushed down on his chest a few times on the court at one point, pretending to give CPR after Pierce fell on his back while being fouled on a dunk attempt.

The Clippers were serious by the end.

Rivers was tossed late in the first OT, becoming enraged and having to be held back by Clippers players and assistants as he tried to get at referee Ken Mauer. Rivers appeared upset about a call on the other end of the floor, walking out of the coaching box and almost all the way to the Nets bench.



AP
Los Angeles Clippers De'Andre Jordan restrains Clippers coach Doc Rivers, who objected to a referee's call in overtime of the team's NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, in New York.

Mauer said crossing over midcourt was an automatic technical and the second was for language and behavior.

Rivers missed Kilpatrick's masterful finish, which he capped with a three-point play with 13.5 seconds left.

The Nets, still playing without point guard Jeremy Lin, ended a skid that started with a 127-95 loss at the Clippers on Nov. 14.

Los Angeles had lost in Detroit and Indiana in its last two games, managing just 70 points Sunday against the Pacers in its lowest-scoring game in 13 years. Rivers pointed to some defensive lapses as the bigger concern, and they certainly struggled to stay in front of Kilpatrick, who was just 3 for 14 after three quarters.

Bucks 118, Cavaliers 101

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo tied a career high with 34 points and the Milwaukee Bucks stunned the Cleveland Cavaliers 118-101 on Tuesday night.

Antetokounmpo added 12 rebounds and five assists while Milwaukee ended Cleveland's four-game winning streak. Jabari Parker had 18 points and Michael Beasley had 17 off the bench for the Bucks.

LeBron James had 22 points for the Cavaliers, who fell to 13-3. Kyrie Irving added 20 points.

Milwaukee led by 22 points in the fourth quarter and cruised past the defending champions, who benched their starters midway through the final period.

The Bucks outscored Cleveland by 14 points in the third quarter.

Cleveland rode hot early shooting to a 14-point first quarter lead, but Milwaukee closed on a 10-0 run and trailed by only two at the end of the period.

The hot hands of Antetokounmpo and Beasley sparked Milwaukee in the second quarter as the Bucks built an advantage of eight points before leading 58-54 at the half.

Nets 127, Clippers 122, 2OT

In New York, Sean Kilpatrick scored 31 of his career-high 38 points after the third quarter and Brooklyn stopped a seven-game losing streak with a double-overtime victory over Los Angeles.

The Clippers started the game without Blake Griffin, ended it without the ejected coach Doc Rivers and dropped their third straight game by blowing an 18-point lead.

Chris Paul had 26 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, but the best guard on the floor in crunch time was Kilpatrick, who also had a career-best 14 rebounds.

Brook Lopez added 27 points for the Nets.

DeAndre Jordan had 21 points and 23 rebounds for the Clippers, who rested Griffin, their leading scorer.

Magic 95, Spurs 83

In San Antonio, Serge Ibaka had 18 points and Orlando took advantage of a sloppy night by San Antonio to snap the Spurs' nine-game winning streak.

San Antonio committed a season-high 19 turnovers in its worst scoring performance of the season. The Spurs have four home losses in the first two months of this season after falling just once at AT&T Center in 2015-16.

Evan Fournier scored 13 points and Nikola Vucevic had 12 to help the Magic snap a four-game skid.

Orlando entered having lost eight of 11, but they were looser and more fluid than San Antonio from the start.

The Spurs' turnovers resulted in 19 points for the Magic.

Kawhi Leonard had 21 points for San Antonio and LaMarcus Aldridge added 16.

Pelicans 105, Lakers 88

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 41 points and 16 rebounds, helping New Orleans dominate short-handed Los Angeles.

Jrue Holiday scored 22 points in his first start this season and Omer Asik had 10 points and 11 assists while New Orleans snapped a two-game skid.

The Lakers expected to be healthier with forward Julius Randle returning to the lineup following a three-game absence because of a hip injury, but about two minutes into the game, starting shooting guard Nick Young was carried off with a strained right Achilles tendon.

Lou Williams scored 16 points for the Lakers and Randle finished with 12, but Los Angeles was in a 20-point hole by the second quarter.

Jazz 120, Rockets 101

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored a season-high 31 points, helping Utah beat Houston for its season-best fourth straight win.

Utah started strong en route to a season high for scoring. Rodney Hood had 10 points during a 20-5 first-quarter run after trailing 16-9, and Houston never led again. Hood finished with 19 points.

Rudy Gobert recorded his 11th double-double of the season with 16 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks. Hayward had seven assists and five rebounds.

James Harden scored 26 points but was an inefficient 8 for 23 from the field. He also had seven assists and five rebounds, while Eric Gordon scored 24 points off the bench.

Pistons 112, Hornets 89

In Charlotte, N.C., Tobias Harris scored 24 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope and Marcus Morris each had 18 points and Detroit beat Charlotte for its third straight win.

Ish Smith added 13 points whhile Detroit shot 49 percent from the field.

Kemba Walker had 23 points for the Hornets, who were playing their fourth game in five nights.

The Pistons hadn't played since Saturday and looked much fresher throughout the game in snapping Charlotte's two-game winning streak.

Detroit took a 10-point lead into the fourth quarter after Caldwell-Pope knocked down a pair of 3-pointers late in the third. Things got sloppy from there with the Hornets turning the ball over frequently on bad passes, and the game quickly turning into a blowout.

Grizzlies guard Mike Conley out 6 weeks

The Memphis Grizzlies now have taken their biggest hit yet this season with star guard Mike Conley the latest to land on the injury list.

The Grizzlies announced Tuesday that Conley will miss at least six weeks after being diagnosed with fractures of the transverse process bones in the vertebrae of his lower back. Conley will be re-evaluated in four weeks.

The guard signed a five-year, $153 million contract in July to stay with the Grizzlies.

Conley was hurt Monday night during the third quarter of a 104-85 loss to Charlotte after taking a charge from Michael Kidd-Gilchrist. He went down hard on his back and stayed on the floor in obvious pain before leaving the game. He did not return.

He is Memphis' leading scorer. He is averaging 19.2 points and 5.7 assists and has helped the Grizzlies to an 11-7 start putting them fifth in the Western Conference. Memphis plays at Toronto on Wednesday night.

Memphis also announced that Vince Carter strained his right hip flexor in the game against Charlotte. Carter left early in the fourth quarter and didn't return. He traveled with the Grizzlies to Toronto and is questionable for Wednesday night's game.

This is the franchise that set an NBA record using 28 players last season as injuries piled up, causing the Grizzlies to limp into the postseason as the No. 7 seed in the West before being swept by San Antonio. First-year coach David Fizdale has been busy mixing and matching lineups with a variety of injuries already this season.

The Grizzlies already had been playing without their top free agent signee this offseason with Chandler Parsons, who Memphis announced Nov. 20 would miss at least two weeks with a bone bruise in his left knee. Parsons, signed to a $94 million contract in July, has played only six games for Memphis and is averaging 7.7 points in those games.

Forward Brandan Wright had arthroscopic ankle surgery Nov. 15 to clean up his left ankle with no timetable for his return. He played only 12 games last season in his first with Memphis, and he hadn't played in a game since Oct. 6 in the preseason.

Zach Randolph hasn't played since his mother died on Thanksgiving Day, and is on personal leave. Forward James Ennis has not played since straining a calf muscle Nov. 21 in a win at Charlotte.

Tiger Woods counts it a success that he's playing golf again

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—This might be one time that Tiger Woods doesn't measure success on the golf course by the score on his card.

He measured it with three words Tuesday: "I'm playing again."

There were times during his 15 months away from golf that Woods wasn't entirely sure that would be the case. He said that when he was at the Hero World Challenge last year, he needed help just to climb out of bed. At an outdoor party at Albany Golf Club, he would mingle for a few minutes and then sit on a stone bench.

He spent more time looking back than looking forward, saying at one point that anything else he achieved in golf would be "gravy."

And now he can't wait to get started on Thursday.

The 15-month break to heal following back surgeries is the longest he has been away from golf. Woods was a mixture of optimism and reality about his return. He talked about having all the shots he needs to compete against a field that includes 17 players from the top 40 and Woods, the tournament host who is at a career-low No. 898. He is playing, so he said he wants to win. The outlook is no different.

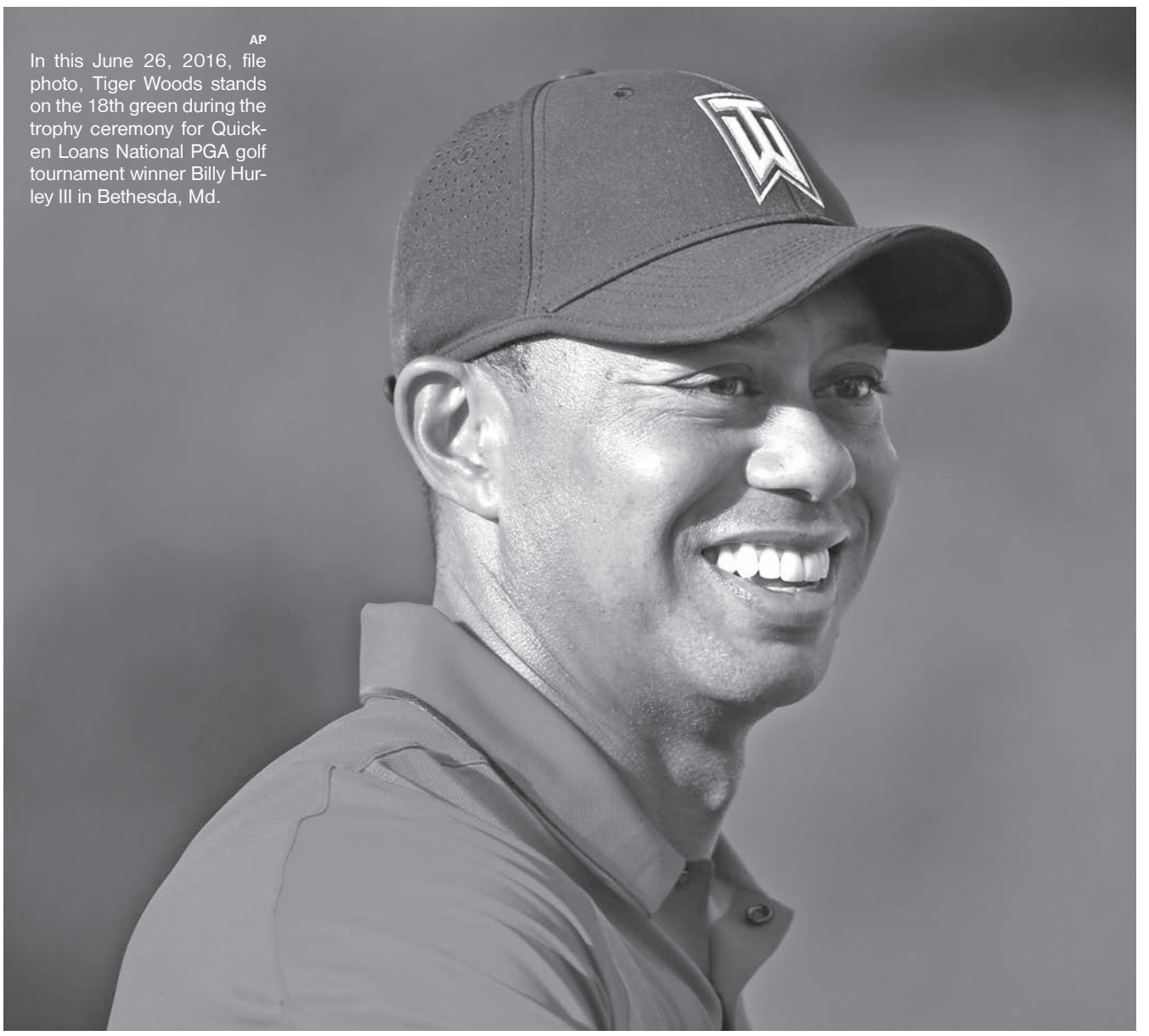
He also noted that Bubba Watson won last year at 25-under par, and it probably will take something around that to win.

"I know that's a tall order since I've been away from the game for so long and I've made a lot of different changes in my game," he said. "Physically and also equipment, practice schedules, training, all that has evolved. The mindset of competing hasn't. That is to go out there and try to beat these guys."

He still is working with swing coach Chris Como, whom he brought on two years ago. Now that Nike is out of the equipment business, Woods is using a TaylorMade driver and fairway metals, a Bridgestone golf ball and his old Scotty Cameron putter that he used to win all but one of his 14 majors.

But it starts with playing.

"Put it this way: It's a lot better situation this year than last," Woods said. "I just couldn't get out of bed. I needed help. It was a tough, tough time. You asked me then, 'Could I play?' No. I can't even get out of bed. How am I supposed to swing a club at 120 miles an hour? That's just two different worlds."



AP

In this June 26, 2016, file photo, Tiger Woods stands on the 18th green during the trophy ceremony for Quicken Loans National PGA golf tournament winner Billy Hurley III in Bethesda, Md.

The Hero World Challenge, which he started in 1999 to benefit the Tiger Woods Foundation, is effectively a holiday tournament for golf's elite that has no cut and pays $1 million to the winner. It feels so much bigger this year because of Woods.

Over the last year, he played five holes to open his new golf course, Bluejack National, outside Houston. And he took three swings with a wedge on the par-3 10th hole at Congressional during a day to promote the Quicken Loans National. All three went in the water.

Everyone is curious to see how he plays. That includes Woods.

His biggest concern is how far his shots will go because he hasn't played with any adrenaline since the final round of the Wyndham Championship on Aug. 23, 2015. He doesn't know how his game will stack up against players he watched at Hazeltine when he was an assistant captain at the Ryder Cup.

His previous long break from golf was eight months when he had reconstructive surgery on his left knee after winning the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, the last of his 14 major titles. He won his opening match in the Match Play Championship and won two tournaments later at Bay Hill.

That was a knee. This is a back.

He was 33, not a month away from turning 41. And that was long before any chaos in his personal life.

Asked what he would expect to feel Thursday at Albany Golf Club, Woods said, "I'll let you know then, because I don't know right now."

"Yeah, there's nerves, of course, because I care. I care about what I do out there," he said. "I want to win, and I want to place the ball in the correct spots, give myself the best angles and bury these putts. Trying to figure that out, yeah, there's nerves."

Woods often talks about the "process" when he's changing his swing. This was a different kind of process. It starts with hitting golf balls at home, then playing a practice round at home, and then bringing that game out to a tournament, competing and eventually getting into contention.

"Right now, I haven't even competed yet, so I'm at the beginning stages of that," he said.

Jack Nicklaus spoke Tuesday morning at the HSBC Business Forum in Florida and talked about how golf wasn't nearly as important to him as competing. That's something to which Woods can relate. What he said he missed was the competition, whether on tour or at home with friends.

"But the bigger the stage," Woods said, "the more fun for me."

MLB BRIEFS

Boston's Porcello, Washington's Rendon win comeback awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Boston Red Sox pitcher Rick Porcello has won the AL Comeback Player of the Year award, while Washington Nationals third baseman Anthony Rendon received the NL honor. Porcello also won the Cy Young Award in his second season with the Red Sox, helping Boston to its second AL East title in four seasons. The right-hander went 22-4 with a 3.15 ERA over 33 starts. Porcello bounced back after going 9-15 with a 4.92 ERA in 2015. His 22 victories led the majors. Rendon hit .270 with 20 home runs and 85 RBIs in 156 games in his fourth season. He had a .348 on-base percentage and a .450 slugging percentage to help the Nationals win the NL East for the second time in three seasons. Rendon was limited to 80 games in 2015 because of injuries. Major League Baseball announced the winners Tuesday. The awards are voted on by the 30 team beat writers from MLB.com.

AP source: Volquez, Marlins agree to $22M, 2-year deal

MIAMI (AP)—The Marlins have begun the painful task of revamping their rotation following the death of ace Jose Fernandez, reaching a deal with free agent Edinson Volquez. The veteran right-hander agreed to a $22 million, two-year contract, a person familiar with the situation said Monday. The person confirmed the deal to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it won't be final until Volquez successfully completes a physical. An All-Star in 2008 when he won 17 games with Cincinnati, Volquez helped pitch Kansas City to the World Series title in 2015 as he went 13-9 with a 3.55 ERA. He slipped to 10-11 with 5.37 ERA with the Royals this year. Fernandez died in a boating accident a week before the end of the regular season in September. He went 16-8 with a 2.86 ERA this year. Miami's rotation is also expected to include Tom Koehler, Adam Conley and Wei-Yin Chen, who combined to go 22-24 in 2016. Volquez has an 89-79 record in 12 major league seasons. He's 33 but has pitched at least 170 innings every year since 2012, and still had a 93 mph fastball this year. Volquez became a free agent this month when he declined his mutual option with the Royals.

AP source: Cespedes, Mets agree to $110M, 4-year contract

NEW YORK (AP)—Yoenis Cespedes is staying with the New York Mets—again.

After testing free agency for the second straight offseason, the slugging outfielder agreed to a $110 million, four-year contract with New York, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement is subject to Cespedes successfully completing a physical.

A two-time All-Star, Cespedes gets $22.5 million in 2017, $29 million in each of the following two seasons and $29.5 million in 2020.

The 31-year-old receives a full no-trade provision as part of the agreement, the largest for a free agent thus far this offseason. The deal's $27.5 million average annual value ties former Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez for the second-highest among position players, trailing only Miguel Cabrera's $29.2 million with Detroit.

Acquired by the Mets from the Tigers at the July 31 trade deadline in 2015, Cespedes had 17 home runs and 44 RBIs in 57 games with the Mets down the stretch, helping them reach the World Series for the first time since 2000.

After finding a slow market in a free-agent class that also included Jason Heyward, Alex Gordon and Justin Upton, Cespedes made a surprise return to the Mets when New York agreed in January to a $75 million, three-year contract that allowed him to opt out after one season and $27.5 million.

Cespedes had 31 homers and 86 RBIs in 132 games this year, slowed after injuring his right quadriceps on July 8. He hit one home run after Sept. 11.

Other outfielders on the free-agent market include major league home run leader Mark Trumbo, Jose Bautista, Carlos Beltran, Dexter Fowler, Josh Reddick and Matt Holliday.

Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said he wanted a resolution to Cespedes' negotiations with the team by the end of the winter meetings, which run from Dec. 5-8.

Peyton Manning shows up at Giants to talk with Eli & Co.

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Peyton Manning finally found some time in retirement to get together with little brother Eli.

Peyton showed up at the Giants' walk-through workout Tuesday and discussed football, sat through part of a quarterbacks' meeting and talked about playing against the Steelers, New York's opponent this weekend in Pittsburgh.

Eli Manning was unaware his brother was going to show up at the team's facility, but he noted it was nice to see him.

The Giants (8-3) have won six straight games - their longest streak since 2008 - and have a great chance to make the playoffs for the first time since 2011.

"It was good to have him here," Eli Manning said. "I hadn't seen him in a while. He has something to do tomorrow, so he popped in and sat in on a few meetings with us today. Just good to catch up. I'll get some time with him later on."

Peyton Manning, dressed in pajamas, did a commercial before the season for DirecTV in which he had a hard time seeing Eli because his younger brother was playing on the days he wanted to meet.

Eli Manning said Peyton seems to be adjusting to life after football, adding that he is staying busy and enjoying his down time.

AP

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning throws in the first half of an NFL football game against the Cleveland Browns, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, in Cleveland.

However, the longtime Giants quarterback said it's obvious his brother enjoys being around football.

"I think when he gets in this environment, he was kind of drilling the coaches on questions," Manning said. "I know he liked being in there and doing a little install on Pittsburgh. I'm sure he misses that environment, just the game plan, how you're going to do things, how you're going to deal with protections, how you're going to pick things up, just really getting back into that flow of things. I'm sure it is a little reminder of how special it is to be in this situation."

Manning said his brother will watch his games and send him text messages afterward, telling him he made a good throw on some play or asking questions about certain plays or what the offense was running.

"That's kind of always been the case," Manning said, adding the two have always tried to watch each other play. "It's good communication about what is going on."

The Giants' offense can use some help. It has scored 231 points this season, which is 21st in the league. There has been no consistency.

"We're just a few plays away," Manning said. "You score 21, it's not like we scored 10. We're just not getting down in the red zone enough. That's the deal."

The Giants tried to switch things up last week and go with the deep ball. Manning threw six long passes against the Cleveland Browns in a 27-13 win, but he hit only one.

Stepping up this week will be important when facing Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers (6-5), winners of two straight.

"We have our expectations of what we want to do and how we want to score," Manning said. "We feel we can score. We've been good the last few weeks protecting the ball, that's number one. It's not about forcing things trying to score. We have to execute well, play smart and make the plays that are there."

The Giants have made enough plays to get back in the playoff hunt this season with five games to go. In the last three seasons, New York has had little to play for down the home stretch.

"You can get spoiled early in your career when four years in a row you make the playoffs," Manning said. "You assume that is kind of the norm. You play long enough you realize it isn't. It is special to be in contention to make the playoffs, and especially after the last couple being out early."

SAI SEI

From Page 28

Skiliang and Germance added three RBIs each with the former contributing three runs and the latter going 2-for-4 at the plate and chipping in four runs.

Rubak, which is winless in three games, was led by the four runs of Mark Toves, who was perfect at the plate at 3-for-3 and had one RBI.

Meanwhile, in last Friday's game, the Old Stars handed Sai Sei its first loss, 21-11.

The Old Stars, who slid back to second place after Sei Sei's win last Monday, were consistent with their offense to snap their foes' run.

Jess Mesa was flawless at bat for the Old Stars, hitting 3-for-3 and tallying five RBIs. Manny Cabrera was 3-for-4 and scored two runs and three RBIs. James Fleming and Randall Aguon added two RBIs each.

The Old Stars registered four runs each in the first three innings and had their best showing in the fourth where Manny Cabrera blasted a two-run double. Mesa then closed out for the Old Stars with his two-run single in the fifth inning.

Sai Sei had six runs in the first two innings, but was shut down in the third and fifth after adding five more runs in the fourth. Bill Camacho struck out Sai Sei's first two batters at the bottom of the fifth, while Damian went down on a 4-3 putout play, leaving two runners stranded at first and third and giving the Old Stars the victory.

SAVE

From Page 28

ech got a couple of offensive boards and returned to the stripe, but Jun Alipio Jr. also went 0-for-2, while Martin Moreno had a split before going 2-for-2 on his next two attempts.

Save More, on the other hand, knocked in key baskets down the stretch to preserve its lead and the win.

Sid Quan canned a jumper to keep Save More's safe distance, 76-72, while Elgene Mangali went for a coast-to-coast layup after Hae Jun Park missed an open point-blanked shot that could have moved Armatech within a point. Mangali's shot gave Save More a 5-point cushion, 78-73, with 30 seconds left on the clock, but Armatech refused to give up as Alipio went for a quick 2 to bring the deficit down to one possession, 75-78.

Save More sued for time with 26 seconds left and when the game resumed, it moved the ball so well that Quan found Robert Guiang open for a shot inside the paint. Armatech was lost in the closing seconds of the match, as it could not decide whether to give up a foul to stop the clock or play honest defense with just two seconds separating the game clock and the shot clock.

Guiang unloaded the dagger with nine seconds remaining in the game and with no timeout left, Armatech was forced to rush things and failed to square off for a shot as time expired.

Quan led Save More's hard-earned win after scoring 22 points, while Mangali chipped in 17. Chris Lilles and Andrew Ashburn also finished in twin digits with 13 and 12, respectively. Alipio paced Armatech with his 21 markers.

Meanwhile, in the penultimate game of the regular season, 8th Division/MAFEA downed Stephen's Pawnshop, 90-80.

8th Division ended up the elimination at third place with its 5-3 record and will face Cavite in the win-or-go-home match tonight. Stephen's Pawnshop dropped to a 4-4 record.

Jun Tabora and Rodney Catalla were on target in 8th Division's last game of the regular season as they combined for more than half of the team's total points. Tabora had 25 markers, while Catalla contributed 21.

The winners of tonight's matches in the first round of the playoffs will join early qualifiers Ali'i Blue Haus (8-0) and Best Sunshine International-Blue Eagle (7-1) in the semifinals.

First game at 6:30pm will have Stephen's Pawnshop going up against Save More. The 8pm second game will then feature 8th Division vs Cavite.

First Game

8th Division 90 – J. Tabora 25, Catalla 21, Fitial 13, Lauron 12, Tenorio 7, D. Tabora 4, Zapata 2, Itibus 2.

Stephen's Pawnshop 80 – Arellano 20, Espinosa 12, De Guzman 12, Dayrit 9, Abuy 9, Aranda 8, Van Buren 8.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 42-38, 65-58, 90-80.

Second Game

Save More 80 – Quan 22, Mangali 17, Lilles 13, Ashburn 12, Guiang 6, Backe 4, Sison 3.

Armatech 75 – Alipio 21, Montano 15, Asuhan 10, Berline 8, Moreno 7, J. Malasarte 4, Park 2, B. Malasarte 2, Tolosa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-16, 42-29, 60-53, 80-75.

PAIRE

From Page 28

apiece for Paire, while Bianca Cabrera, Patricia Surima, and Keisha Deleon Guerrero contributed one each. With Paire registering seven goals in its last game, it brought its total to 17, the third best in the division. Paire also had the third least goals allowed at 15.

Kanoa, which drew its lone goal from Marie Aldan tallied 13 in 10 games and gave up 30. Babs scored 14 goals and yield 19, while Kagman had only nine goals and allowed 28.

In Division A, Paire topped the goals scored category with its 49 and also earned the best record in the field with its near-perfect mark of 7-0-1. Paire finished way ahead of Shirley's (3-2-3), Kanoa (2-3-4), and TanHoldings (1-3-5).

Meanwhile, the masters division also played their final games last Sunday with Topnotch beating Kanoa, 6-2, and Matansa outclassing MP United, 4-1.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	11	6	.647	—
Boston	10	7	.588	1
New York	8	9	.471	3
Brooklyn	5	12	.294	6
Philadelphia	4	14	.222	7½

Southeast Division

Charlotte	10	8	.556	—
Atlanta	10	8	.556	—
Orlando	7	11	.389	3
Washington	6	10	.375	3
Miami	5	12	.294	4½

Central Division

Cleveland	13	3	.813	—
Chicago	10	6	.625	3
Milwaukee	8	8	.500	5
Indiana	9	9	.500	5
Detroit	9	10	.474	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	14	4	.778	—
Memphis	11	7	.611	3
Houston	11	7	.611	3
New Orleans	7	12	.368	7½
Dallas	3	13	.188	10

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	11	8	.579	—
Utah	11	8	.579	—
Portland	9	10	.474	2
Denver	7	10	.412	3
Minnesota	5	12	.294	5

Pacific Division

Golden State	16	2	.889	—
L.A. Clippers	14	5	.737	2½
L.A. Lakers	9	10	.474	7½
Sacramento	7	11	.389	9
Phoenix	5	13	.278	11

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Davis, NOR	17	189	148	537	31.6
Westbrook, OKC	18	186	156	561	31.2
DeRozan, TOR	16	176	123	483	30.2
Harden, HOU	17	146	146	491	28.9
Cousins, SAC	17	161	130	481	28.3
Lillard, POR	19	170	147	536	28.2
Durant, GOL	17	166	93	462	27.2
Curry, GOL	17	152	79	454	26.7
Thomas, BOS	16	127	127	417	26.1
Butler, CHI	16	128	134	413	25.8
Irving, CLE	15	144	42	372	24.8
Leonard, SAN	17	138	111	421	24.8
Walker, CHA	16	135	78	392	24.5
James, CLE	14	120	69	331	23.6
Wiggins, MIN	16	126	99	376	23.5
Wall, WAS	13	109	71	305	23.5
Anthony, NYK	16	138	59	368	23.0
Love, CLE	15	104	90	335	22.3
McCollum, POR	19	157	61	424	22.3
Antetokounmpo, MIL	15	125	74	330	22.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Capela, HOU	96	154	.623
Jordan, LAC	75	121	.620
Howard, ATL	91	150	.607
Gortat, WAS	72	121	.595
Durant, GOL	166	289	.574
Valanciunas, TOR	78	137	.569
Plumlee, POR	78	141	.553
Hill, UTA	69	125	.552
Kanter, OKC	86	156	.551
Adams, OKC	76	140	.543

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Whiteside, MIA	16	76	163	239	14.9
Drummond, DET	17	59	169	228	13.4
Howard, ATL	16	73	129	202	12.6
Gortat, WAS	15	46	136	182	12.1
Jordan, LAC	18	52	165	217	12.1
Vucevic, ORL	17	50	148	198	11.6
Davis, NOR	17	27	159	186	10.9
Love, CLE	15	44	117	161	10.7
Gobert, UTA	17	47	133	180	10.6
Bogut, DAL	13	37	99	136	10.5

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Harden, HOU	17	208	12.2
Westbrook, OKC	18	201	11.2
James, CLE	14	136	9.7
Wall, WAS	13	113	8.7
Paul, LAC	18	155	8.6
Frazier, NOR	18	138	7.7
Rondo, CHI	14	103	7.4
Lowry, TOR	16	116	7.2
Green, GOL	16	111	6.9
Teague, IND	18	122	6.8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2016 NMIFA FA Challenge Cup

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta hands the perpetual trophy to MP United's Sun Joon Tenorio after the club beat TanHoldings in the finals of the 2016 NMIFA FA Challenge Cup held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field. MP United won in a shootout, 4-3.

MP United's Joshua Abragan dribbles away from TanHoldings defenders.

TanHoldings' Joshua Galarion, left, keeps a close eye on an MP United player dribbling the ball.

MP United's Seung Mock You has his eyes on the ball, while TanHoldings' Joshua Galarion catches on defense.

MP United goalie Christopher Aninzo, right, gets the Golden Glove award from Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ross Zapanta.

TanHoldings' Jonathan Capayas, right, stops the ball and is guarded by MP United's Edwin Kim.

TanHoldings' Anthony Fruit, right, attempts to keep the ball from rolling out to the sideline, while MP United's Go Sekiguchi looks on.

MP United's Sun Joon Tenorio, left, and TanHoldings' Joshua Galarion are in a footrace for the ball.

Kilpatrick, Nets rally for double-OT victory over Clippers

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Tiger Woods counts it a success that he's playing golf again

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Save More ousts Armatech

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Save More/MIFICPA eliminated Armatech/MDX Radio Club after prevailing in the final regular season game in the 2016 UFO/IT&E Inter-Organizational Basketball League, 80-75, last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Save More's victory also gave Cavite a free pass to the first round of the playoffs. Save More finished the round-robin elimination with a 4-4 record to take the No. 5 spot in the team standings and arrange a knockout game against No. 4 Stephen's Pawnshop. Cavite and Armatech had similar 3-5 marks, but the former won the tiebreak and the last ticket to the playoffs due to the win-over-the-other rule. Cavite defeated Armatech in their Nov. 17 meeting, 82-67. Had Armatech downed Save More, Cavite would have gotten the boot in the nine-team field, joining PC Bargain/Visminda and Maplas/Akap Pinoy to an early vacation.

Armatech had a chance to steal the important win from Save More when the former moved within 4, 67-71, going into the last four minutes of the match. However, Armatech, which fell behind by as much as 15 points in the first half, 42-27, missed several free throws to kiss its playoff bid goodbye. Bruce Berline failed to hit his bonus charity after cutting the deficit to 4, and muffed two more free throws in the ensuing play.

After Berline's booboos from the foul line, Armat-

See SAVE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Save More/MIFICPA's Sid Quan, right, drives against Armatech/MDX Radio Club's Jun Alipio Jr. during the third quarter of their game in the UFO caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Paire, Shirley's rule Dove fall league

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Therize Millare is in action for Shirley's Football Club, which topped Division B of the 2016 Dove Women's Fall League.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club and Shirley's FC topped their respective divisions in the 2016 Dove Women's Fall League as competition concluded last Sunday at the Chacha Ocean View Middle School Field.

Shirley's edged MP United, 2-1, to win the Division B championship. Katherine Magat and Michaela Carreon scored one goal apiece for Shirley's, which completed the double round-robin contest with a 7-2-1 win-draw-loss record.

MP United finished at second place with its 6-1-3 mark after falling short against Shirley's as only Julia Ishikawa hit the board for the eventual runner-up squad.

MP United was also second behind Shirley's in the most goals scored as the latter collected 43 in 10 games, while yielding only 12. MP United earned 21 and gave up 13.

Babs (4-2-4), Paire FC (3-4-3), Kanoa (3-1-6), and Kagman High School (1-2-7) rounded out the Division B field.

Babs finished the season on a winning note after blanking Kagman, while Paire also took an easy win in their last game following a 7-1 rout of Kanoa.

Doris Ayuyu and Jenisha Dubrall posted two goals

See PAIRE on Page 26

Sai Sei recovers, regains masters lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sai Sei quickly regrouped to beat Rubak, 28-16, in their game in the 2016 Masters Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Sai Sei, which absorbed is first loss last Friday (against the Old Stars) after a 2-0 start, took early control of its match over Rubak and then finished strong to improve its record to 3-1 and reclaim the lead in the six-team field.

A 10-run top of the first inning allowed Sai Sei to dictate the tempo of the match. Sai sei's first eight batters reached home plate in the opening inning, including Steve Igisair and Taylor Germance. Igisair had a two-run single, while Germance made it home off a Rubak error and then hit a two-round double in his second at bat. Leo Bobai and Nizer Masayos scored twice for Sai Sei at the top of the first.

At the bottom of the first, Rubak countered with five runs, including Roland Aizon's two-run single, however the team remained behind after three innings despite getting seven more in the second and third. Sai Sei matched Rubak's output in the next two innings to keep the driver's seat and went on to win the match an inning earlier after limiting the latter to four runs in fourth and fifth, while scoring nine in the last inning.

For the second time, the first eight in Sai Sei's top of the order made it home at the top of the fifth to set up the easy victory via 10-run mercy rule. Kuich Damian capped Sai Sei's third win with a strikeout that stranded John Manibusan at third.

Igisair went only 2-for-5 for Sai Sei, but he got four RBIs and scored three runs. Lito

See SAI SEI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Two Sai Sei players discuss their strategy while waiting for Rubak's relief pitcher to complete his warm-up throws during their game in the 2016 Masters Baseball League last Monday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.